





lang="en">

Itai no wa Iya nanode Bogyo-Ryoku ni Kyokufuri Shitai to Omoimasu - WN Chapter 00-28

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Prologue – Defense Specialized and Before that

Prologue: Defense Specialized and Before that

「U～n.....I haven't played a lot of games though～」

While looking at the game package that her friend Shiromine Risa pushed onto her, Honjou Kaede lets out a sigh.

「Risa is always leading me by the nose.....」

It can be seen that men and women holding swords and staffs were drawn on the package of New World Online, which was also written with colorful letters.

It was the VRMMO, a kind of game genre, that has rapid increase on sales recently, and Kaede has the hardware to move this, although it was covered with dust.

And that hardware also, she was invited by Risa, and it was something she bought during that time.

「Ha～.....it's not like I can refuse her, right.....」

A memo, on Kaede's hand. This was given to her by Risa, and it was written there what to do to start the game.

「If I see those *KiraKira* eyes...I can't say that it's impossible...」

Risa had already believed that Kaede would start without doubts. Kaede who thought that not starting would be a shame, couldn't do anything about it.

「It can't be helped...! Configuration, I should start huh」

She swept off the dust, and plugged the hardware.

It's not like she hated games.

Playing with her a bit, is just fine.

She thought of that, and Kaede started the first configuration.

[-> Chapter 1](#)

Chapter 01 – Defense Specialized and First Login

Chapter 1: Defense Specialized and First Login

Kaede ended the first configurations of New World Online with memo on one of her hand. Thanks to the memo, the configuration was proceeding very quickly.

「Fu～.....it's okay with this right...」

And then, it became the time to dive into the cyber world. It's a feeling after a long time. I closed my eyes, and the next time I opened them, it was already the game's world. Even though I said that, there are still configurations remaining, and it couldn't be in the middle of a town from the start.

「First is.....name huh～. U～n, choosing Kaede as it is, it's my real name so it's somehow...what should I do...」

Kaede thought for a while, and after that, she chose Maple as her name, and pushed accept. On the panel that floats in air, the contents that were shown had changes. Next is, looks like it was needed to choose the beginner's equipment.

「Large sword and...one-handed sword...mace...staff...u～n...I'm not good at moving around you know...and also, I don't want to receive something like an attack...then, maybe it's staff to be a magician huh～」

Just like that, Kaede was looking at some equipments, but there was one equipment that stopped on her eyes.

「Large shield and sword? The attack power is low though, but...the defense power is number one huh...Eh?! If defense power increases the damage is nullified?!」

Kaede who was reading the explanation, decided that was it, picked large shield and short sword as beginner's equipment.

By the way, increasing the defense power and nullifying the attack is only for the very start, and it would be better to increase strength after that, that was the evaluation of that within the game, well, it just means, it was an unpopular equipment.

In the first place, there are only a few people who chooses their equipments intentionally, in the assumption that they are going to receive an attack. In addition, even if was impossible with a large shield, if it's a shield, it is possible to equip a one-handed sword or a mace.

There are a lot more people who chooses that because it is easier to swing around.

「Next is status point huh...here is, all defense power, here you go」

It was what you call a pure build. If you do this with a large shield, your seemingly trash attack power will become more sad, and since you are not placing anything on speed stats, your movement speed could only be how fast you are in reality.

Who wonders if there is any high-school girls that could win against charging animals in the real world.

「Ah～...you can't change height huh...I wanted to make my height taller...」

Kaede's height is about 145 cm. She also has slim figure, and with that lovely appearance and stature, she was secretly being liked at school, but Kaede had no ways of knowing that. Height was her complex, but it seems that changing the body, height, and weight different from the real world originally, you cannot play very well so it couldn't be helped.

「Then, it's okay with this huh. Yosh!」

Kaede's body was enveloped with light.

The next time she opened her eyes, that was the vibrant castle town's square.

[Prologue <-> Chapter 2](#)

Chapter 02 – Defense Specialized and First Battle

Chapter 2: Defense Specialized and First Battle

「Here should be...uhmm. Status!」

Vuon with the sound of that, a transparent blue panel emerges in front of Kaede.

Maple

Lv1

HP 40/40

MP 12/12

【STR 0〈+9〉】

【VIT 100〈+28〉】

【AGI 0】

【DEX 0】

【INT 0】

Equipments

Head【―――】

Body【―――】

Right hand【Beginners Short Sword】

Left Hand【Beginner’s Large Shield】

Legs【―――】

Shoes【———】

Accessories【———】

【———】

【———】

Skill

None

「U～n...? VIT is defense power right? If I'm correct. A-re...this, I've done it?」

Even Kaede who doesn't play a lot of games, guessed that having 0's lined up on your status isn't good.

Even if she looked from her life until now, there's more things that wasn't good that it was 0.

What Kaede noticed after checking her statuses one by one, is that her STR could only, somehow, let her hold her weapon, but she had no INT, she had no AGI, and she also didn't have DEX.

「Ahaha...I've done it～...what should I do...Risa isn't here too」

UnUn she was groaning like that, and after a few minutes of thinking, the idea she went up, was to go fight monsters one time for the time being. And if it couldn't really work, then it cannot be helped. At that time I'll make it once more, Kaede thought.

「Yosh, let's go out of the town...!」

There was one thing that Kaede thought while going towards outside of the town.

「The people nearby.....so fast?!」

Here appears the effects of 【AGI 0】 that didn't show while she was on a stop.

But, without being discouraged with that, *TekuTeku* she walked towards outside of the town.

Her goal, first subjugation.

Even the outside of the town, although not as many as inside, but there were people. If she fought here, there would be at least one who might witness her.

「I don't want to show my uncool side though～...I'll go a little more distant～」

Just like that, *TekuTeku* Kaede walked to a forest that seemed to have no people in it.

「Yosh, it's okay if it's here...Monster-san, you can come from wherever you want!」

It is unknown if it reacted to Kaede's voice, but a White Rabbit with a pointed horn on it appeared from the bushes. The White Rabbit tackles with a good speed. If you ask the question, does Kaede who has only the same speed in real life can dodge a charging rabbit, then the answer is no.

「Cho!! Wa! I'm Sorry!!」

It is unknown on what part she was apologizing for, but when Kaede instinctively said that, her large shield had shifted strangely. She received the charging attack with a pointed horn to her stomach.

「It hurt...!It doesn't?」

The rabbit was confused because it didn't inflict the damage that should've been a critical hit.

「Ohhhh! Amazing! It doesn't hurt! As expected of 【VIT 128】! Fufufu.....how's that, Usagi-san. How's my abs?」

Ghu Kaede puts force on her stomach. It's not like it was muscular. It was rather *PuniPuni*.

It looks like the rabbit took that thrust, defenseless stomach that as provocation, and charges once again.

Kaede received that without using her large shield.

The White Rabbit was relentlessly charging again and again, *Fufufu* and Kaede who receives that while laughing.

If a person who didn't know what was going on passes by, it was a profound and mysterious situation, so that person would probably write that down on the BBS in an instant.

That something, that is very doubtful if it should be called as battle, lasted for an hour.

「Come here, come here~, put a lot more power in it~?」

Kaede was provoking the White Rabbit a lot, but a system sound flowed inside

her head.

『Skill【Absolute Defense】had been acquired』

「n? What's that?...Please wait a minute, Usagi-san」

Kaede left that rabbit charging alone, and checked her skills.

Skill【Absolute Defense】

Makes the VIT of the skill's owner times two. The point needed to increase 【STR】【AGI】【INT】 will be three times of normal.

Skill Requirement

Receive attacks continuously for an hour, and not receive damage. And, not afflict damage using magic, or weapons.

「n～? Then it means,【VIT 256】?! This, isn't it a very good skill?!...I was only playing with Usagi-san though～...」

Kaede was thinking that she gained this skill very easily, but the VIT wouldn't be enough for normal large shield users. Being that said, there isn't anyone who would make a full build knowing that it would be a trash build later on. In addition to that, there's no way, that person who made a full build, would play around for an hour with a White Rabbit.

It means, it is not said enough that it was a miracle she was able to acquire that skill. And furthermore, the only one that holds that skill right now, is Kaede.

Although, there's no way that Kaede herself would know about that.

「Yo～sh Usagi-san, I've kept you waitin.....Usagi-san?」

「Kyu...」

The White Rabbit injured its body every time it hit the ground after charging. And, a HP Bar-like thing was appearing on the top of its head.

That, right now, from red gauge, it became zero.

Parin with that sound, the White Rabbit, turns into shining light particles, and disappeared. Without dropping not even one drop item, it disappeared without any trace.

「Usagi-saaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaan!!!」

『Your level had risen to 2』

「Usagi-saaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaan!!!」

The scream of a girl echoed in the woods.

[Chapter 1](#) <-> [Chapter 3](#)

Chapter 03 – Defense Specialized and First Damage

Chapter 3: Defense Specialized and First Damage

「Ha～...why did you die by yourself...although, I didn't want to defeat you anymore...」

Kaede was mourning with the death of the White Rabbit, but after a while, she regained herself, and started to check about the level up.

「Ah! The point that can be changed into status had increased by 5!」

If she changed these points, she can say goodbye to the zero status safely.

「U～n...but, even if I increased any other than VIT right now...」

It looks like it cannot be turned back after changing it, so Kaede thought about it very carefully.

「Yo～sh...I decided! I'll change it into VIT!」

After Kaede placed all five points into VIT, and once again, she moved deeper to the forest to find a monster.

「Ueee...so disgusting...」

Right now, a Huge Caterpillar is clinging to Kaede's heel. Surely, there is no person that wouldn't think of that as disgusting.

Kaede took out the short sword from her waist, *ZakuZaku* and stabbed its body. This caterpillar has poison, and it pours its poison after biting its opponent, but even if it had bitten Kaede's body, it couldn't make a scratch so there's no way of inflicting poison.

In addition, it didn't have loveliness like the White Rabbit.

It means, she wouldn't think of anything, even if she defeats it.

She could only defeat it after stabbing it ten, few times because her STR was so low.

「Level, it didn't go up huh...」

Kaede was at this point, thinking twice if she should go back.

But, deeper and deeper she goes, and after a while, she wandered into the place where the strongest monster was in these surrounding area.

And, that monster's misfortune, right now, it appeared in front of Kaede.

It was a bee that flies with noisy feather sounds.

That, was going towards Kaede.

「No way...this is the worst...」

Kaede became frightened to that unbelievable large sting on its back and made a stance with her large shield.

But, Kaede who was【AGI 0】couldn't keep up with its movements.

It went to her back in an instant, and stinged...

she was not.

The Giant Bee also seemed it was confused, and tried to sting her neck many times.

「Ahaha...it's tickling you know～」

Kaede who regained her composure, returned to her usual self.

Even so, the Giant Bee still tried to sting her a few times, but it seems it knew that it had no effect, and started to spray venom.

「n.....?!!」

Kaede felt like her skin was being burned, a little, but she really felt the pain. It was the same level of pain when entering the bath after having a sunburn.

When she checked her status, her HP was reduced by 1. It means, Kaede would die if she receives the venom only after 39 times.

「.....Strategical retreat!」

Kaede showed her back to the Giant Bee, and ran away. But the big gap on AGI wouldn't let her do that.

The Giant Bee sprays venom to her continuously.

「Khu.....」

At the time when Kaede's HP was cut in half.

『Skill【Poison Resistance (Small)】had been acquired』

After hearing that system sound, Kaede stopped receiving damages. If this was the usual Kaede, she would've had joy with it, but it was different this time. She received damage for the first time from the Giant Bee, so she was a little angry.

「I can't, no more...」

Batari Kaede collapses on the ground, pretends like she wanted to go away from this place even a little, she crawled.

Right, it was an act.

When she did that, the Giant Bee showers her with venom as if it is only a little before it ends. When Kaede gradually slows her movements, it also increased the amount of venom as if it was putting an end to her.

『Skill【Poison Resistance (Small)】had evolved to【Poison Resistance (Medium)】』

Niyari Kaede smiled. Right, this was her aim. Countermeasures are perfect with this, since poison was her only concern right now.

And, Kaede stopped moving completely, she feigned death. The Giant Bee, wanting to snibble that Kaede, approaches with its head.

「Fufu, you fell for it! Giant Beeee!!」

She turned her body around, and stabbed the short sword she had on her hand into its mouth that was widely opened. From the mouth that didn't have armor, the blade that was stabbed made a sound like *GoriGori* and pierced its head.

GuiGui Kaede moved that further and moves it sideways. The HP Gauge that was shown in the top of the Giant Bee's head was surely being shaved.

The Giant Bee became mad with anger, and stings her with its sting, but damage couldn't get through.

And finally, after the Giant Bee convulsed, it turned into light and disappears.

Poto and it dropped a silver ring on the ground.

「Fufufu...it's my victory!」

『Skill 【Giant Killing (Oomonokurai)】 had been acquired. Your level had risen to 8』

After Kaede picked up the ring, she checked the skill and ring she gained this time.

Ring of the Forest Queen Bee【Rare】

【VIT +6】

Auto Recovery: Recovers 10% of maximum health every 10 minutes.

「Ohhhh! This is amazing. HP Recovery! It says rare, it means I was lucky huh?」

To Kaede who had only basic stats on MP, and haven't learned magic, HP Recovery is very valuable. And the 【VIT +6】 that was with it was plainly large. Because Kaede who have 【Absolute Defense】 it would mean that it would become VIT +12.

She wore that after removing the glove that she was wearing in the first place. The glove wasn't an accessory, it was just only a fashion item, so she wore it again above the ring.

「It was written in the memo that valuable items or skills shouldn't be said or shown to other people right」

Risa wrote about the countermeasures for PKs. Even so, there wouldn't be many PKers appearing, that could kill the Kaede right now.

「Lastly, skill huh...」

【Poison Resistance (Medium) 】

Nullifies strong poison.

Skill Requirement

Receive strong poison 40 times.

「It doesn't felt that strong though～...maybe VIT also reduces the damage for poison huh...」

In fact, that was correct. The damage that she should've received was being reduced.

Even so, because she didn't have resistance against poison attack, she received 1 damage.

「Then, next!」

【Giant Killing (OomonoKurai)】

During times when you have more than four stats, other than HP/MP, lower than the battle opponent, stats other than HP/MP will be doubled.

Skill Requirement

If a player, who have more than four stats, other than HP/MP, lower than half of the battle opponent's stats, should subjugate the targeted monster alone.

「It's because four of my stats are at zero...a-re? Then, most of the battles, my status will always be doubled? That means...VIT is four times totally!」

As Kaede had said, most of her stats were zero, so the effect would be VIT times two.

In addition, she gained status points after raising her level.

「A-re? I only gained 15 status points.....maybe I can only get it in multiples of two」

Kaede, this time, placed all of it into VIT without hesitation.

Even if she thought about the 【Giant Killing (OomonoKurai)】, this was for best.

Right now, Kaede's VIT stat is 616.

「n～...I somehow got tired. I should stop it here and call it a day huh. I got more into it than I thought」

Kaede went out of the forest, and when she returned to town, she logged out, and returned to the real world.

Chapter 04 – Defense Specialized and Concentration

Chapter 4: Defence Specialized and Concentration

「Yo～sh! Let's also do our best today!」

Continuing from yesterday, Kaede logged in to New World Online.

「Let's go to the forest today too～! I also want new skills」

Kaede wasn't the type who is engrossed on levelling up, but still, she is attracted by the exciting feeling that you get when you gain a new skill. Like filling a bookshelf with books, it is a moment of fun.

「I should get skills that will raise VIT mostly right!」

And, with Kaede's usual slow walking pace, *TekuTeku* she went towards outside of the town.

「I wonder what should I try～...」

She thought like that, and the first thing that came to her mind was sensory awareness. If you can be aware of the enemy's presence from the start, there shouldn't be a more convenient thing than that.

「Yo～sh! I'm going to do it～!」

Kaede placed her large shield on the ground, closed her eyes, and searched for presences.

Actually, this approach.

Is wrong, big time.

The real approach is written on the conqueror's bulletin board, hit the unseen enemy with an attack using bow and arrows or throwing stones as if you know that it is there.

It was like that, although it seems that there is a hole in the system. In the first place, if Kaede acquires it in this approach, Kaede would be able to use Sensory Awareness in the real world.

Kaede wasn't that kind of superman.

And Kaede who doesn't know about that closed her eyes and concentrated mindlessly.

She just did that, after three hours.

To Kaede's ears who had just exerted patience for unknown reasons, a system message had arrived.

『Skill 【Meditation】 had been acquired』

「A-re, 【Meditation】 ? It wasn't Sensory Awareness...I see, that's too bad...」

Just like that, when she tried to stand up, she noticed that her body was heavy. She opened both of her eyes, and when she checked her body, from centipedes and caterpillars that are small fries, to wolves that were a bit stronger, they clinging to Kaede's defenceless trying to attack it.

「Kyaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaaa?!!!」

With a scream, *ZakkuZakku* she defeated the centipedes and wolves by stabbing them with her short sword, to the 【STR 9】 Kaede, it was very difficult. The enemies couldn't be defeated at all. But, they are too weak and cannot wound Kaede's body, so she can stab the blade to her body without worries.

But, seemingly caught by Kaede's scream, monsters were coming out one next to the other from the back.

『Skill 【Provoke】 had been acquired』

She is happy because of the new skill, but first she needed to escape this crisis. And finally.

『Your level had risen to 11』

「Fu～...it was a difficult fight...well then, let's check the skill～!」

【Meditation】

If used, 1% of maximum HP will recover in 10 seconds. Duration of effect is 10 minutes. No MP consumption.

While in 【Meditation】 you cannot take any attack movements.

Skill Requirement

Not lose concentration while in all kinds of pain and meditate for three hours.

「It's not like I was meditating though～...well, strong skills are welcome you know!」

Next, she also checks the provoke.

【Provoke】

Draws the monster's attention into one point.

Skill Requirement.

Steal more than 10 monsters' attention at once.

「This would also be nice during levelling up」

The original way, of being used by a person with highest defence powers in the party to tank, it was a skilled used in parties, but Kaede didn't look at it like that. For the reason, her AGI was so low, that even if she tries to catch up with monsters during grinding, she couldn't catch up to them. And the only person who had that kinds of worries, even in all of the players, is Kaede.

Anyways, with this, she would be able to raise her level any time.

「The only left is to place the status points to VIT...n? There are 10 status points!」

Right, you can receive twice the usual status points given at the multiples of tens. This was created that way, but to Kaede, it was an unexpected gift, and she was somehow happy with it.

Maple

Lv11

HP 40/40

MP 12/12

【STR 0〈 +9〉】

【VIT 130〈 +34〉】

【AGI 0】

【DEX 0】

【INT 0】

Equipments

Head【———】

Body【———】

Right hand【Beginners Short Sword】

Left Hand【Beginner’s Large Shield】

Legs【———】

Shoes【———】

Accessories【Ring of the Forest Queen Bee】

【———】

【———】

Skill

【Absolute Defense】【Giant Killing (OomonoKurai)】【Poison Resistance (Medium)】【Meditation】【Provoke】

Kaede confirmed her status lastly, nodded very satisfied and logged out.

Meanwhile, in a certain internet bulletin board.

【NWO】I saw a “bad” large shield user

1. Name : Nameless Large Sword User

This is bad

2. Name : Nameless Spear User

>1

kws

3. Name : Nameless Magic User

How “bad” is it

4. Name : Nameless Large Sword User

Dunno. it was for some reason sitting while being surrounded by tens of Big Centipedes and Caterpillars.

5. Name : Nameless Spear User

Ha? wtf.

you’d die by that, lol. even if you equip large shield.

6. Name : Nameless Bow User

>1

with strong equipments? what about there

7. Name : Nameless Large Sword User

>6

it looked like it was beginner's equipments

just thinking of it makes my hair stand.

I wonder how you can be calm being surrounded by caterpillars and centipedes.

8. Name : Nameless Magic User

I can only say.....probably nullifies the attack if not dying by that...

9. Name : Nameless Spear User

you can do that?

10. Name : Nameless Bow User

>9

if I'm correct, someone tested VIT full build. it probably had endured the attack of White Rabbits

11. Name : Nameless Spear User

trash build

13. Name: Nameless Large Shield User

I probably know who's that

13. Name : Nameless Large Swordsman

>12

kws

14. Name : Nameless Large Shield User

I dunno the ign but it's a bishoujo not reaching 150 cm from her walking speed, her AGI is almost zero btw, if I do the same thing, I'll melt in an instant

15. Name : Nameless Magic User

really full build? well, but might find hidden skills or something

16. Name : Nameless Spear User

Ah~something like that you say, I mean a girl, and a bishoujo on top of that

17. Name : Nameless Bow User

Hou, that's where you look huh

I second you

18. Name : Nameless Large Sword User

n~ well, can only find information later huh if she becomes a top player, her name should probably be showing somewhere

19. Name : Nameless Large Shield User

if I find something, I'll post it

20. Name : Nameless Magic User

Thank you very much for the information provided!! (Salutes)

Just like that, in places where Kaede doesn't know about, Kaede became a topic for a while.

[Chapter 3 <-> Chapter 5](#)

Chapter 05 – Defense Specialized and First Intermingling

Chapter 5: Defence Specialized and First Intermingling

「I also came today huh～...」

With this, it's the third day of consecutive login. Although saying that it was for playing with Risa, but she got hooked to the hilt.

The feeling of success at the time she gained a skill, and the feeling of success of increasing defense powers made her addicted, and before she noticed she turned on the hardware.

And Risa at the time, she was told by her parents to study so she couldn't play.

「Fufufu～...I'll just enjoy by myself you know」

Just like that, Kaede was about to walk, but she had an idea when she looked around.

「I...I'm still on beginner's equipment!」

Shield that has no decoration at all and very weak-looking short sword that it was it. When she looked around, there are high-level players here and there, and those people are wearing good equipments with decorations.

KyoroKyoro she looked around for those kind of people for a while, and saw a man who had equipped a cool large shield.

ToteTote Kaede approached that man and called out to him.

「Uhm～where should I go to get that kind of cool shield?」

「n? eh? m-me?」

The man was surprised because he was suddenly had been called out to.

「Yes! That large shield, it's cool right!」

「Y-Yeah. Well, thanks.....this is, an order-made you know. You can pay money to a non-combat class user and make it for you」

「Mumumu...I see...」

「Let me think...you want me to introduce someone? As the kinship as same large shield user」

「!! Please do!」

「Well then, come with me」

There exists the possibility of this being a fraud, but Kaede was only thinking about the large shield right now, so she wasn't able to think about that at all.

It was lucky for Kaede that this man was really only being a friendly man.

Because.

「No way...to think she will talk to me.....I should write this on the bulletin boards later」

Right, this man was the Nameless Large Shield User from some bulletin board.

After walking for a while, they entered one store.

Inside, a woman was working ahead of the counter.

「Ara, welcome, Crom」 What happened? The maintenance of the shield is still early though?」

「Ahh, I just saw a new large shield user so...I took her impulsively」

And from behind of Crom who said that, Kaede shows her appearance.

「Ara, what a cute girl.....Crom, did you bring this girl with you impulsively? Should I report this to the police?」

Saying that, the store owner woman emerges a blue panel in mid-air.

「W-Wait a minute! That, what can I say, it's just an analogy!!」

「Fufu...I know. Just joking」

「Ha～...that's too bad for the heart so stop that」

Crom said that, *Ho* and let out a sigh.

「You also, you shouldn't come with a suspicious person like that you know?」

「Au～...I understand」

「I'm not suspicious!?!」

「Fufu, well, chatting is enough with this, then, what's the real talk?」

「This girl was saying that she wanted a cool large shield, so I thought I should just let you see her face」

「I see now. My name is Izu. Like you can see, a non-combat class, and within that, I specialize on blacksmithing. I can also create something like a potion

though」

「He～...you're amazing desu ne! Ah, uhm, I am called Maple!」

It was her first intermingling inside the game, so although Kaede was nervous, she was able to say her name without biting her tongue.

「Maple-chan huh. Why did you choose the large shield?」

「Uhhh...I don't like painful things, so I thought I'd increase my defense powers desu」

「n～...I see, I see. Then VIT specialized equipments would be good...but...budget, you don't have right」

Kaede checks her budget. Because she hadn't bought anything so her money was still 3000G, the default money.

「W-Would three thousand gold be enough?」

Kaede asked to be sure.

「Fufu...it's not enough with that. At least around one million gold is needed」

To Kaede right now, it was a dizzying amount.

「Ugugu.....being fashionable will be postponed for a while huh～」

「There is also the way of entering dungeons you know? There are a lot of treasures in dungeons. Also as a way of collecting money, you can go for once you know? Well, I don't know if there is a powerful large shield though」

After that, she registered friends with Crom and Izu, to be able to contact them anytime.

To the friendly two, *Pecori* she bowed her head and left the store.

Kaede for the meantime, decided two things, to collect money and go to the dungeon.

「I want a cool equipment〜!」

241 Name: Nameless Large Shield User

I encountered the large shield girl, I mean, I registered friends with her lol

242 Name: Nameless Spear User

Ha?

243 Name: Nameless Bow User

How?

244 Name: Nameless Large Shield User

When I logged in, she was like *KyoroKyoro* a lot, and when I thought that our sights met, she runs towards to me and talked to me lol

245 Name: Nameless Large Sword User

large shield user girl, communication level is too high

246 Name: Nameless Magic User

>244

then? what happened?

247 Name: Nameless Large Shield User

I was told cool large shield

when I told her I'll introduce her to a non-combat class user she followed from behind her AGI was too low and she took a hard time following me so I stopped a few times for her

248 Name: Nameless Spear User

>247

how high is your AGI

249 Name: Nameless Large Shield User

wait a sec I'll summarize it now

here it is

Her name is Maple

She had not entered any party

The reason she chose large shield was because she didn't like painful things so she increased her defense powers A very honest and active-type girl

Overall Evaluation

She was a very good girl

Ah~watch and take care of her~

Lastly, I am thinking of exchanging information about Maple-chan with you guys so I'll show my information For the mean time, I'm playing using the name Crom

Then, my AGI is 20

I want to register friends with you guys so I'll be happy if those who can come

would go to the front of the plaza's fountain at around 22pm

250 Name: Nameless Spear User

thanks for the info, I mean, aren't you Crom!

Aren't you completely a top player!!

251 Name: Nameless Magic User

you're too famous I'm too scared lol

252 Name: Nameless Bow User

Yossha, then I'll go at that time lol

I mean, Maple-chan, being left behind by AGI20, maybe she really is full build

253 Name: Nameless Large Sword User

then, from now on also, is the plan warmly watch and protect Maple-chan,
alright~?

254 Name: Nameless Spear User

I agree~!

255 Name: Nameless Bow User

I agree~!

256 Name: Nameless Magic User

I agree~!

257 Name: Nameless Large Shield User

I agree~!

Of course, there's no way that Kaede would know about this bulletin board.

[Chapter 4](#) <-> [Chapter 6](#)

Chapter 06 – Defense Specialized and Dungeon Attack

Chapter 6: Defense Specialized and Dungeon Attack

「Exploring a dungeon huh～I feel like my adventure had begun!」

Using the only three thousand gold, she bought potion to be sure.

HP is only 40 so even the lowest kind of potion is enough.

There is the ring of the giant bee and there is also 【Meditation】.

She finished preparing and went to the dungeon. Her aim was the 【Maze of the Poison Dragon】 that was written in the information bulletin board.

「I have 【Poison Resistance (Medium)】 so it is alright!」

Dungeon, here I come, with that feeling she jumped outside of the town.

TekuTeku she walked towards the opposite direction of the forest. If this weren't a game, Kaede who was only holding a large shield and short sword can only be seen as an elementary school student.

She was attacked by a few monsters on the way, but they did no damage so without defeating them, she ignored them.

The monsters in this area seem to be more intelligent than the monsters in the forest, so when they understood that the attack wouldn't go through, they went away.

There were no witnesses so Kaede's abnormal defense power wasn't found out.

When Kaede was walking like that, the trees around had gradually withered

and she noticed that the landscape was becoming deserted.

She also saw swamps that sound *PokoPoko* on their ground.

She walked like that by ten minutes.

She saw that there was one part of the ground was opened wide like a mouth.

「Is that it huh?」

Kaede entered inside, the inside had a taller ceiling that she thought, so she could properly make a stance with her large shield.

When she enters further, slimes with poisonous hues and lizards was crawling from the walls and the ground and charges an attack.

「Ei!! ya!!」

She stabbed the blade to the slime but she couldn't aim its core that was moves around in its body like it was drifting so she couldn't deal damage. But, the slime's tackle also, doesn't deal damage.

「Mu.....this had become my last will. Eat this! Large Shield Preeeeess!!」

Together with the large shield she fell over the slime and covered all its body. There wasn't a skill or anything so power couldn't be expected, and it's an attack that makes a lot of chances because of falling down on enemy lines.

But, that wasn't relevant to Kaede who only receives no damage to normal attacks or venom.

Shield attack had very little damage, but it seems it was enough to destroy the slime's core.

「Yo～sh! Let's go further more～!」

Finding out how to deal with the slime, Kaede went further and further to the back. By the way, Kaede gave up on defeating the lizards. Her AGI was not enough, and before she attack, *SuruSuru* it ran away and because she couldn't hit it.

Wondering how many times it had been, she falls to the ground with the shield. At that time.

『Skill 【Shield Attack】 had been acquired』

Kaede immediately read the skill's explanation. She guessed the contents of it from its name, but to be sure.

【Shield Attack】

Attack using a shield. Power is dependent to STR. Knockback effect (Small).

Skill Requirement

Using shield attack, deal end damage to monsters 15 times.

「It doesn't seem very useful...but knockback looks strong!」

While she moved further and further inside, there was like a violet flower that released a very clear poisonous-like mist, and spits poison.

Like fishes that were swimming on poison swamps.

And while getting past those, she reached the deepest area.

In front of her, a door three times higher than Kaede's height.

She put force to that double door to open it.

GiGiGi while sounding like its oil had dried, the door opened completely, and the inside of the room became clear.

There was poison swamps here and there, and was full of light violet liquid.

At the same time that Kaede entered that room carefully.

Behind her, the door closed with momentum.

「Hyan!?!」

As if to erase that short scream, a dragon that has its body melted in some parts appeared from the poison swamp.

「T-This is the Poison Dragon?!」

Without caring about Kaede's distress, a very deep violet breath was shot.

Kaede herself was almost without scratch, but her equipments couldn't go that way.

「T-The large shield and short sword.....」

Corroded to tatters and broke down, those wouldn't mean anything as an equipment anymore. Fortunately, the ring that she was wearing under her glove was fine.

And on this instance.

Kaede's large shield【VIT 28】is quadrupled by the effect of 【Absolute Defense】 and 【Giant Killing (OomonoKurai)】. It means it dropped by 112.

With that, the damage from the breath shot by the Poison Dragon passed through further.

Every time she receives it was 3 damage. Kaede's HP had been reduced by 1 by the first breath shot.

It means, if it goes like this, she would surely be killed within 13 shots.

「Fu～.....concentrate! 【Meditation】!!」

Kaede closed her eyes and heightens her concentration.

This time, it would be a 【Meditation】 while pain is going through her body. 【Meditation】 wouldn't show its effects if concentration isn't heightened.

The ring and 【Meditation】, and the potion that she bought with all her money. Using all of that, her only chance of winning is to get the higher 【Poison Resistance】.

While she uses 【Meditation】, the fear had gradually disappeared. Just as if Kaede's body was melting, she stopped feeling anything.

Just like that she continuously endured, and by the time her HP is under 20% left, she drank the potion.

She repeated that.

The amount of recovery couldn't catch up. Is it the potion running out, or will she gain the resistance.

It is whichever was faster.

After she endured for a while, a voice echoed in her head.

『Skill 【Poison Resistance (Medium)】 had evolved to 【Poison Resistance (Large)】』

With that voice that she was wishing for, but Kaede was not glad.

The pain of her skin being burned still remains.

Her resistance is still not enough.

It is unknown whether the resistance will grow further, but Kaede could only bet on that.

By the time that the last potion bottle was emptied.

「Haha.....I did it.....」

What echoed to Kaede's head was the skill acquisition of 【Poison Nullification】.

If it was right now, the breath that fell to her felt good.

But, she couldn't help it just resting. While recovering her HP, Kaede thought.

Right. In this time that her weapon is destroyed. What should she do to defeat the dragon, it was about that. The dragon's attack was no damage. Kaede's attack was also no damage.

It won't get anywhere.

In addition, she could only kill it or die to get out of this room. This is was a happening that the developer did not expect.

「Ugugu...well, let's try a lot of things! Tomorrow is rest day too!」

Right, fortunately, it is still rest day for the students tomorrow. She can take a lot of time slowly.

This and that, Kaede thought and tried, and finally, she did a specific move.

「Dragon's meat, looks tender and juicy...maybe I could eat it with 【Poison Nullification】!」

While being exploited to its breath, she approached the body of the Poison Dragon.

And. Kaede placed her palms together.

「.....Itadakimasu」

Chomps at its back.

[Chapter 5](#) <-> [Chapter 7](#)

Chapter 07 – Defense Specialized and Poison Dragon Battle

Chapter 7: Defense Specialized and Poison Dragon Battle

「Uu.....it's not that tasty」

Kaede frowned her face.

After observing it for a while, she found out that the part she chomped off would not grow back. But, the principle is unknown but if it was only stripped off, the meat that fell returns to its place like a video played backwards.

「I have to eat it after all huh～...」

The meat of the Poison Dragon had a small bitter taste, and Kaede recalled green pepper with it, which she didn't like.

Even so, she cannot get out of this room, so she pinched her nose, and while swelling tears on her ears, she ate it. The only ally for Kaede was that in this game, satiety doesn't exist. Even if she can taste it, her tummy would not be full.

「*MoguMogu*...Ah! Poison Dragon-san...thank you for throwing a breath out. *MoguMogu*...the bitter taste that was green pepper-like disappeared, so it helps～...」

Just like that, she moved forward to eating the torso part. And there result of eating like that for five hours. The torso part became only its bones. Next is the tail, Kaede thought, but when she was sliding down to its tail, *PoroPoro* the Poison Dragon's bones collapsed and shattered, and the Poison Dragon had

stopped its movement.

At the same time, behind the Poison Dragon, a magic circle shining with light and a large treasure box appeared.

『Skill 【Hydra Eater (DokuryuuKurai)】 had been acquired. Together with this 【Poison Nullification】 had evolved to 【Hydra (Dokuryuu)】』

『Your level had risen to 18』

Kaede first placed her 20 status points to VIT as usual.

With this, the basic stats of VIT had become 150.

「Yosh...my defense had hardened again!」

Continuing, she checked her skill. Even Kaede didn't think that there would be a skill like 【Hydra Eater (DokuryuuKurai)】.

【Hydra Eater (DokuryuuKurai)】

Nullifies poison, paralyze.

Skill Requirement

Defeat the Poison Dragon with HP Drain.

It looks like eating is treated as HP drain. Although it's doubtful that a player other than Kaede would do that.

It is true that her HP had recovered for a small amount.

It was clear that it was not the normal way to get it. The difficulty taking it

using the normal way is lower compared to that. Who would want to purposely eat the rotting meat of the Poison Dragon.

【Hydra (Dokuryuu)】

Be able to use the powers of the Poison Dragon as you will.

By consuming MP, Poison Magic can be used.

Skill Requirement

Defeat the Poison Dragon with HP Drain with Poison Nullification acquired.

Seeing this, Kaede trembled.

「I-It's my first proper way to attack! Plus, it's poison so it has perfect compatibility!」

After hitting it, she only need to endure after that, it can make use of Kaede's VIT to the fullest.

「But, the problem is MP huh～...but I want to increase VIT～...」

UnUn Kaede was groaning like that, she remembered the existence of the treasure box, and paused her thinking.

It was quite large. It was a rectangular with 3 meters in width, 1 meter in length, and 2 meters in height.

To her first treasure box, *Gokuri* Kaede swallowed her saliva. With nervous and excitement, her heart beats get loud.

Slowly raised the cover, and checked what's inside.

「Ohhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh!!!」

To Kaede’s excitement, she shouted with a loud voice.

What inside was a large shield with black as a base and decorated with a vivid red decor.

Reflecting a dull shine, an armor that has roses carved on it that doesn’t stand out too much but properly shows its presence, it was clear that it matched the large shield earlier.

And, a jet-black short sword that has a calm feeling with it and a sheath that has beautiful shining garnet laid in it.

「Mou!...this is the best! So cool!」

Taking that, one by one she looked at the explanation.

【Unique Series】

Sent to the person who broke through the dungeon by defeating the boss alone and the first time as a one of a kind equipment only for the dungeon capturer.

——Limited to one per dungeon.

The person who acquired this equipment will not be able to trade it.

『Mirror of the Dark Night (Yamiyo no Utsushi)』

【VIT +20】

【Destruction Growth】

Skill slot —

『Armor of Black Roses (Kurobara no Yoroi)』

【VIT +25】

【Destruction Growth】

Skill slot —

『New Moon (Shingetsu)』

【VIT +15】

【Destruction Growth】

Skill slot —

It was exactly Kaede's exclusive equipment. Even the short sword has VIT boost, it was equipment that will not display full potential if other players use it.

「Let's look at skill slot and 【Destruction Growth】 after I go back～!」

After Kaede carefully placed the three equipments to her inventory, she was enveloped by the light from the magic circle, and from the dungeon, she was teleported to the town.

When Kaede returned, she swiftly moved away, and using her remaining money, with only one day, she borrowed a room in an inn.

In this game, sleep can also be taken so there are facilities like the inn, but Kaede's aim this time was not to stay in it.

「First is checking huh」

【Destruction Growth】

As this equipment is destroyed, it will become more powerful after being destroyed and return to its former shape. Repair is done instantly so there is no effect in stats during breakage.

Skill slot

In exchange of the player's skill, it can be infused to the weapon. Skills that are infused by this cannot be acquired again.

The skill that is infused can be used five times a day without MP consumption.

Subsequent use will consume MP that is required normally.

Slots will be released every 15 levels.

「Fufu!...very cool! and strong!」

Kaede who had checked that slots were added infused 【Hydra (Dokuryuu)】 to the short sword 『New Moon (Shingetsu)』 without hesitation. With this, her problem with MP consumption was resolved.

「And then, what everyone has been waiting for～Equip!」

Kaede equipped all of the equipments and confirmed how it looked in a mirror.

「Ohhhhhhhhhh!! I'm so cool!」

Just like that, with also the reason to be used to that equipment, she posed in front of the mirror for about an hour.

「Fufufu...and then, outside, here I come!」

It was just like wearing her best clothes to go outside, Kaede was quite nervous.

As expected, that equipment that emits an overwhelming presence gathered the attention of many people.

It had become late in the night, but she wanted to go for a hunt once more, so she places her foot towards outside of the town.

[Chapter 6](#) <-> [Chapter 8](#)

Chapter 08 – Defense Specialized and Secret Training

Chapter 8: Defense Specialized and Secret Training

Clad in jet-black equipment, sitting on the edge of the fountain, Kaede was troubled.

Her level won't go up that easy.

Right now, Kaede's level is 18, and the top-level right now is 48 they said. Kaede had no interest in this game in the first place so she had been late to start. If it continues like this, the level gap will only open.

Well then, the reason for Kaede not having an easy way to level up was her AGI was so low, that she couldn't go to the places where strong monsters are in a short time.

「U～n...」

She was staring at the information bulletin board thinking if there was a skill that would be useful.

The reason why she is thinking about it seriously right now was because of the announcement the game staff about an event.

Right, after one week, an event will start. The event's contents is point valued battle royale. Every participants will fight for the number of defeated players and death count.

Also, points will be received with dealt damage, and damage not received.

And to the top ten, limited event items will be sent.

「Limited, only called by that I want it already.....!」

Kaede was the type of person that buys merchandize, even if it was useless, if there was a limited edition written on it.

That's why, she is thinking of ways to deal with the level gap.

「Uu～.....for the mean time, let's go!」

Kaede stopped staring at the bulletin boards, and walked towards the north.

Right, Kaede didn't knew.

How abnormal her defense powers was.

「Tomorrow is rest day too...I'll sleep outdoors and get a skill!」

In Kaede's inventory, a sleeping back was in. With the money she finally earned by selling loots she was able to buy it.

Her equipments were grand, but she had no money.

And, she arrived at the north forest.

Staying here for the night, one of the prey that she targeted is Explosion Ladybug, a ladybug that self-destructs as attack.

And, another is a monster that is familiar in many games, it's goblin.

「Yosh...【Provoke】!」

From Kaede's body a circular light was released, and monsters were coming. Kaede only took within those, goblins as the opponent. The number of goblins are five. Other monsters than that, she didn't care because even if she was

attacked it was no damage.

The goblin slashes at Kaede using its rusty sword. But, even if Kaede is 【AGI 0】, it's not like she cannot use the shield that was larger than her to attacks that were done head on.

Gacchiri she stopped it, and blocked it away. It was plain, but she repeated that. Five Goblins. The efficiency was five times.

『Skill 【Knowledge of Large Shield I】 had been acquired』

Because that was a basic skill that was written in the information bulletin boards, Kaede also acquired it.

It reduces the damage received from the enemy by 1 when a large shield is equipped. Instead of increasing her VIT, she plans to take every damage reduction skill to increase her defence power.

「【Provoke】!」

With adding goblins to a total of ten and make them hit her, the efficiency was raised further.

The 【Knowledge of Large Shield I】 grew to 【Knowledge of Large Shield IV】 in only few hours, and reduces damage by 4 right now.

In addition, she also got the skill 【Body Manipulation】 and 【Attack Diversion】 Their effects were both reduction of damage received by 1.

「This much is good huh」

And using 【Shield Attack】 she crushed the goblin that was doing it's best right now.

『Skill 【Abominable (Gokuaku Hidō)】 had been acquired』

At this time, Kaede gained a skill that she wasn't expecting.

Kaede's play style was completely different to other players, she endured and endured with long periods of time, so she gains skills that are not easily obtained by other players.

【Abominable (Gokuaku Hidō)】

Every time an attack was received from an opponent intentionally, 【VIT +1】

But skill effects will only be available one day starting from the activation of the skill.

Limit is 【VIT +25】

Skill Requirement

Intentionally receive attacks from opponent that can be defeated continuously and exceed an amount of time.

And, not receive death penalty until skill requirement is met.

「What a happy miscalculation!」

She endured that she almost danced, and went deeper to the forest.

Right, in the first time since Kaede started this game.

She is going to find for unconfirmed skills.

The Explosion Ladybug, as its name says, is a ladybug that explodes, and its size is around double of a normal ladybug. Experience gained is very bad, takes a lot

time to encounter since it's deep in the forest, and it is hard to dodge it since its body is small and the damage is also huge. That's why, Kaede could monopolize the hunting grounds that are unused by herself.

When Kaede reached their spawning place, she used 【Provoke】 to call the ladybugs. Because they are not hunted at all, there were a huge amount of ladybugs that flew, but to that, Kaede only took out the blade of Shingetsu a little from its sheath.

「【Paralyze Shout】」

Although it was called shout, a silent, but a clear sound, *Kin* echoed.

The skill that is infused to Shingetsu is originally the Poison Dragon's, and the names were almost the same with the dragon.

It means, its sound just needed to echo, that's why Kaede used the sound *Kin* that comes out when sheathing it as a trigger.

The reason is, it's very cool.

Kaede looked at the ladybugs that fell to the ground randomly very content.

And, Kaede squatted, closed her eyes.

And started eating the ladybugs one by one.

「Ah!...it's like the candy that was cracking and popping! Its nothing when I close my eyes huh. I mean, I already eat the Poison Dragon, being intimidated with just this.....」

It's not like Kaede had not thought about anything since she's doing this.

It was proven that Kaede's idea was right at the time after she ate 50 ladybugs.

『Skill 【Bizarre Eater (Akujiki) 】 had been acquired』

『Skill 【Bomb Eater (BakudanKurai)】 had been acquired』

「Then...it's okay if I stopped eating right」

Kaede checked the skills that she gained.

【Bizarre Eater (Akujiki)】

A skill that changes everything that was devoured as power.

Will devour even magic, and can change it to the user's MP. When the magic powers overflows, will be stored inside the body as magic crystal.

Skill Requirement

Oral ingestion of a certain amount of lethal substances.

【Bomb Eater (BakudanKurai)】

Reduces explosive-type damage by 50.

Skill Requirement

Defeat Explosion Ladybug with HP Drain.

「It's a good skill!! Ha～ There was a good reason I did my best eating～」

Kaede infused 【Bizarre Eater (Akujiki)】 to 『Mirror of the Dark Night (Yamiyo no Utsushi)』.

【Bizarre Eater (Akujiki)】 is a passive skill so the use limit had nothing to do with it. In addition, with eating the magic attack and the direct attack dealt with weapons, it can completely nullify it.

「And it would change to magic crystals and I can release a big magic with 『New Moon (Shingetsu)』! Fuhehe...so cool...」

Ba, she drew out Shingetsu, thrust it forward and made a pose. Her image training was perfectly perfect.

「I was searching for explosion magic coming here but...Kekka Alright huh!」

After that, she only needs to raise her level until the limit.

Who knows what will become of Kaede's first event.

[Chapter 7 <-> Chapter 9](#)

Chapter 09 – Defense Specialized and Event Start

Chapter 9: Defense Specialized and Event Start

For the last status check, she releases the blue colored panel.

Maple

Lv20

HP 40/40

MP 12/12

【STR 0】

【VIT 160〈+66〉】

【AGI 0】

【AGI 0】

【INT 0】

Equipments

Head【———】

Body【Armor of Black Roses (Kurobara no Yoroi)】

Right hand【Shingetsu】

Left Hand【Mirror of the Dark Night (Yamiyo no Utsushi)】

Legs【Armor of Black Roses (Kurobara no Yoroi)】

Shoes【Armor of Black Roses (Kurobara no Yoroi)】

Accessories【Ring of the Forest Queen Bee】

【———】

【―――】

Skill

【Absolute Defense】【Giant Killing (OomonoKurai)】【Hydra Eater (DokuruuKurai)】【Bomb Eater (BakudanKurai)】【Meditation】【Provoke】【Abominable (Gokuaku Hidō】【Knowledge of Large Shield IV】【Body Manipulation】【Attack Diversion】【Shield Attack】

「Yosh! Everything's prepared. I hope I don't receive damage～...」

The times that she received damage was so few, she still not used to the feeling of receiving damage.

And, it would be her first pvp. She's not to be blamed being nervous.

After waiting for a while on the first plaza, participants continuously gathered.

In addition, a gigantic screen appeared in the sky. With that, they should be showing interesting players. That will be watched by non-combat users and players that had not participated.

「Well then, the first event! Battle Royale will be started!」

From here and there, the noise like Ohhhhhhhhhhhhh!! echoed. Kaede also raised her fist up although she was shy, and shouted.

There flows an announce with loud volume.

「Well then, the rules will be explained once more! The time limit is three hours. The stage will be a newly created event map!

The number of players defeated and the times being defeated, damage dealt and damage received. Using this criteria points will be computed, and will be

ranked! Furthermore, event items will be sent to the top ten players! Please do your best!!」

After saying that, the countdown before the teleportation was shown on the screen, and when it became zero, Kaede was enveloped by light and teleported.

「n...where is this?」

Kaede noticed that the blinding light had disappeared and opened her eyes slowly.

It looks like she was in the center of the plaza of a crumbling ruins.

There was no one around when she looked with a glimpse.

「Even if I move, I'll be caught by someone...let's just wait here!」

Kaede sat on a decently large brick stone, and waited for other players to attack.

After waiting while she was drawing on the ground with a stick, sounds were heard from here and there.

「You've come!」

She thought and raised her head, it was too late and the sword that was swung was already in attacking distance.

「I got you!」

If it was the Kaede before, she couldn't block that, but the Kaede right now has 【Knowledge of Large Shield IV】 with her. Her body moved more smoothly than before, and received the sword with her large shield.

Devoured, and erased it.

「Ha? U-uwaaaaaaaaaaaaaa!!」

The man who had attack, because his sword wasn't bounced by the shield, just like that, starting from his arm that held the sword, he plunged and when half of his body was devoured, he became light particles and disappeared. Now that he lost his main weapon, he couldn't return to the battlefield anymore, and can only be an observer.

And, with his life, a beautiful red crystal emerged in the shield as decor.

「Let's continue drawing!」

Just like that, Kaede showed her defenseless look and drew in the ground.

Right, Kaede who was having fun drawing was really defenseless. It's not like she was doing that on purpose, but the result was, she caught a party of three this time.

Making a party is not against the rules. It is probably the result of wanting to make one of the party members on the top ten.

The male swordsman ran. It was a straightforward dash. But still, to Kaede who was 【AGI 0】 it was quite quick.

But, the speed of emptying the distance of 10 meters is too different to the speed of Kaede making sheathing sound with Shingetsu.

「『Paralyze Shout』」

Kin with a very good sound, the three players collapsed suddenly.

Parin with that sound, the red crystal on the large shield shattered. Kaede took the large shield and stood up.

「Mufu～...It's my victory!」

This time, she pushed her large shield to their head to not destroy their main weapon. The next instance, the swordsman player became light particles and disappeared.

The other two who was collapsed was defeated the same way.

Three new crystals emerges from the large shield.

「Large shield is...stronger than I thought!」

There's no way you can call this as a bad equip, Kaede nodded with that once, and went back to her place again.

That kind of monster large shield user is only you.

A person who could have said that, did not exist on that place.

[Chapter 8 <-> Chapter 10](#)

Chapter 10 – Defense Specialized and Event Results

Chapter 10: Defense Specialized and Event Results

【MWO】First Event Spectator Seat 3

241 Name: Nameless Spectator

Is Pain the champion after all?

He's has game's highest level, probably matchless

242 Name: Nameless Spectator

That's the worst

his movements are too inhuman lol

243 Name: Nameless Spectator

But, the ones that are continuously winning are famous names after all

244 Name: Nameless Spectator

well, that's natural for top players to be strong

245 Name: Nameless Spectator

Ha? what's with this...isn't it bad?

246 Name: Nameless Spectator

Uwaa the ones that are showed too op

247 Name: Nameless Spectator

Interim Results Ranking

a large shield user named Maple

crushing 120 people with no damage received

248 Name: Nameless Spectator

Fhuuaa?!!

249 Name: Nameless Spectator

cheat? no...impossible huh

250 Name: Nameless Spectator

I mean, rampaging like that, it's about time that it's shown on the screen

251 Name: Nameless Spectator

is this it? the one shown right now

251 Name: Nameless Spectator

the shield's eating the sword lol

wtf lol

252 Name: Nameless Spectator

too splatter, although she's cute

with stat debuff and with that shield they're crushed with no resist

253 Name: Nameless Spectator

but, isn't her movement too slow?

only countering ever since

254 Name: Nameless Spectator

yeah, with the way she move, it's normal to be dealt damage look, just when I

said i...ha?

255 Name: Nameless Spectator

ha?

256 Name: Nameless Spectator

ha?

257 Name: Nameless Spectator

that, didn't the large sword that swung on her head repelled?

258 Name: Nameless Spectator

eh? can you really do that?

259 Name: Nameless Spectator

if it is, everyone's doing it

260 Name: Nameless Spectator

about rather than the large shield, or the stat debuff, the player itself was the most strange thing

Changing places to the event area, being tired out of sitting around, *TekuTeku* Kaede was walking in a one way street.

In front of her was were a lot of players. Their numbers, about 50.

She saw a lot of players that made a party, but she hadn't seen a 50 person one.

It looks like most of them were magicians, and as soon as they saw Kaede, they released their magic to her.

Probably, they had hunted players on a one way street like this a lot.
Their movements had no hesitation on it, and felt they were used to it.

「With a big magic, I'll blow you away!」

The magic crystals were accumulated too much that the black large shield became a red large shield. Kaede was also thinking that she should consume it soon.

Because she didn't need magic crystals anymore, she received the magic shot by around 40 magicians without doing anything.

At the time their magic has ended. Kaede drew the short sword from her waist.
Her most powerful attack needs the blade to be completely shown.
From the blade, a violet colored magic circle was created.

「【Hydra (Dokuryuu)!!」

The Poison Dragon with three heads that has its body made with lethal poison, in exchange for all the magic crystals on the large shield, it changed the three direction in front of it into a sea of poison.

Including the players that were caught up, around 500 players were blown away.

295 Name: Nameless Spectator
that's too much of a monster

296 Name: Nameless Spectator
strange places

without activating defense skills, she received all the magic with only her base VIT stat a ridiculous powered magic

her stats, wtf has happened with it?

297 Name: Nameless Spectator

the reason she received magic was maybe because of the armor or some OP skill?

298 Name: Nameless Spectator

almost all large scaled skills had effects with them, so because the armor wasn't shining there's nothing on it i think

i'm not sure tho

299 Name: Nameless Spectator

Un

I also think there's nothing wrong with the armor right now...I think

300 Name: Nameless Spectator

seriously, wtf was that walking fortress lol

301 Name: Nameless Spectator

that's really a freaking walking fortress

The time remaining was only one hour left. After one hour, all ranking will be decided.

Within that nervous situation.

An announcement with large volume echoes.

「Current #1 is Pain-san, #2 is Dread-san, #3 is Maple-san desu! In an hour starting now, when the top three is defeated, 30% of the point gained by them will be transferred!! The position of the three will be shown in the map! Please do your best until the end!」

「Looks like they're not going to end it simply」

Pain who didn't seem to feel a sense of crisis.

「Ue～ that's too much of a pain～ really?」

Dread who was really showing dullness.

「I did it! I'm number 3!」

Maple who was glad.

While the three of them showed different reaction on their places, the event was moving towards its climax.

Players that were aiming for their head was running towards them striving to be first.

「There she is! That's her!」

WaraWara the players came out from the forest.

Within them, there were of course players that had increased their AGI a lot.

Without being able to keep up with that, the knife was swung towards the

nape of the neck.

「Ha? W-Why?!」

But, that wouldn't get through Kaede.

Before the player that was sure she was defeated moves, it was eaten by the large shield. And even after that, a lot of players jumped towards her and got eaten while saying complains to the blade that wouldn't go through.

Having seen that scene a lot of times, the movements of the players had become cautious, and they slowly lessened their distance. There were a lot of them who was especially being cautious of the killing technique of the large shield.

But, the players had forgotten that Kaede didn't only have the large shield as an attack but she also had a short sword.

「【Lethal Poison Breath】」

Kaede drew out half of the blade of Shingetsu, and a deep violet mist poured out from the sheath.

「【Paralyze Shout】!」

PataPata the players that were collapsing one next to the other, had no ways of escaping the lethal poison. From the front line, they became particles in order.

In the end. The players only became Kaede's points.

「The End! The result, there was no change of rank from #1 to #3. Well then, we will now proceed to the awarding ceremony!」

When Kaede thought that the front of her whitened, she was at the same plaza at the start.

The #1 to #3 was told to climb the stage so Kaede also got on the stage. Kaede was standing while looking straight forward, but with the amounts of sight, she somehow got shy, and her face blushed.

And, she was passed the microphone when her head had whitened with nervous.

「Next is, Maple-san! Please say something!」

She was saying next, so the two should have already talked, but Maple was too nervous that she wasn't listening.

「eh! ah! eh! e~to, uhmm, I endured a lot sho it wash okay deshu」

Kaede bit her tongue.

She bit her tongue grandly.

And she also didn't know what to talk about so what she was saying were also ridiculous.

Kaede, had been so embarrassed she couldn't look forward, so she didn't notice that a lot of players were recording and had that on video.

When she got the event prize, Kaede had returned to the inn's room swiftly.

That night. The bulletin board's Maple is too cute thread, and Maple too OP thread was on fire.

[Chapter 9 <-> Chapter 11](#)

Chapter 11 – Defense Specialized and Status Discussion

Chapter 11: Defense Specialized and Status Discussion

【NMO】 The mystery of Maple-chan 【Discussion】

1 Name: Nameless Spearman

I made the thread, there

2 Name: Nameless Large Sword User

Yeah

The agenda is about our Maple-chan

3 Name : Nameless Magic User

honestly, I think she's worse than Pain why that #3?

4 Name : Nameless Spear User

because she was drawing in the start at the ruins

5 Name : Nameless Bow User

she was too cute lol

6 Name: Nameless Large Shield User

I start to get worried if that is really a large shield Ah! btw I'm #9

7 Name : Nameless Spear User

As expected

how can you do that using a large shield (Looking away from Maple-chan)

8 Name : Nameless Large Sword User

Well then, this is the summary of Maple-chan this time First Event

Maple #3

Death Count 0

Damage Received 0

Number Defeated 2028

Her equipments are the mysterious large shield that devoured enemies, the ridiculous short sword that releases status debuff, and a dark armor.

The dark armor doesn't seem to exhibit ridiculous specs.

She had ridiculous defense powers, could receive concentrated attack from 40 magic users.

9 Name : Nameless Magic User

how much I look at it, I can only say crazy

10 Name: Nameless Large Shield User Large Shield → well, there might be that kind of equipment...un Short Sword → well, there might be one Maple-chan herself → Ha?

The number one mystery is her stats and skill build Maple-chan, how high is your VIT...

11 Name : Nameless Large Sword User she's really a walking fortress you know
A WALKING FORTRESS

12 Name : Nameless Bow User

it looked like she received it with only her VIT stats right ~

I mean, isn't there someone who has an idea on what skill Maple-chan have?

like the time when she received the magic attack, she was shining brightly, so it's sure that she used some kind of skill

13 Name: Nameless Large Shield User Status debuff → idk

defense power + → if there was a skill that makes it that hard I got it Large Shield → dunno

14 Name : Nameless Magic User

>13

this

it is unknown what skill Maple-chan have but she probably got the basic ones but Maple-chan's unique skill is really unknown

15 Name : Nameless Bow User

maybe the strongest 1v1?

16 Name : Nameless Magic User

that's probably true

something must be done with that AoE status debuff or else its impossible to win she was saying lethal poison so probably high-level magic there's a question there, what happened to her MP?

using that magic so lightly, and she's probably VIT full build right?

MP isn't enough right, normally

17 Name : Nameless Large Sword User that is ~...the large shield is probably used as a tank like charging what it eat as magic power

18 Name : Nameless Spear User

then, that red crystal is probably that I'm sure that it shattered when she used magic

19 Name : Nameless Large Sword User It means, Maple-chan is

She herself have a ridiculous high defense and makes all kinds of damage to zero and trying to strip that armor, attacks and players are changed to MP

be crushed with status debuff

That means like that huh

20 Name : Nameless Spear User

wtf is that last boss

21 Name : Nameless Bow User

yeah...freaking devilish~

22 Name: Nameless Large Shield User but it is said that she might have a skill still hidden its unknown because there's no one who dealt damage to her, but her HP might recover

23 Name : Nameless Magic User

wasn't it promised from a long time ago that the HP of the last boss won't recover right!!?

24 Name : Nameless Large Sword User when I wrote that, I had a weird laugh in addition, she had just started playing a very huge OP rookie

25 Name : Nameless Magic User

in the next event, the armor also has ridiculous specs!

see that

26 Name : Nameless Bow User

in reality, she's already a top player right~...

that's too OP

she's cute and she's strong, she's the best huh

27 Name : Nameless Spear User

let's watch and protect her yo

even if her stats are highest level, the player is a beginner

28 Name : Nameless Large Sword User I agree

I'll count on you guys with individual investigation from now on too yo

29 Name : Nameless Bow User

ROGER!!

30 Name : Nameless Magic User

ROGER!!

31 Name : Nameless Spear User

ROGER!!

32 Name: Nameless Large Shield User ROGER!!

[Chapter 10 <-> Chapter 12](#)

Chapter 12 – Defense Specialized and Material Collection

Chapter 12: Defense Specialized and Material Collection

The next day of the first event. Kaede was taking notes in front of the BBS.

To take the task of taking damage reduction skills once again, she is recording all the damage reduction skills that have been found until now, and their skill requirements.

And right now, it had been just three months since the New World Online was released. Together with that, there will be a large-scale update tomorrow. A few skills and items will be added. That also made the internet on fire, but that was not the highlight.

The highlight was, the players that had defeated the dungeon boss on the north end of the map, will be able to move forward from there towards the new map that is added in the update.

Of course, even it was challenged by solo or by party, there is no problem.

In simple words, the players that cleared the first stage will be able to go to the next stage.

Kaede also, was thinking of going there after she gained skills.

「Today will be...let's go acquire 【Large Defense】!」

Kaede eagerly said that, but she found one problem. The Mirror of the Dark Night has the deadly skill that devours everything it touches. Because of that, she wouldn't be able to receive attacks that are needed for the skill requirement of 【Large Defense】. After all, before she could receive it they will be erased.

「U～n...but I think I don't need it if I have this large shield though～...no, but still～... I want to have a lot of skills～...」

Kaede who was thinking for a while, she started walking as if she had an idea.

「I wonder if it would go well?」

Saying that, she went towards the Izu's store that she was taken by Crom before.

「Ara! Welcome. You surely had become famous huh～...when you came here, you only had beginner's equipments though～」

「Thank you very much! And then...there's something I want to talk today... although it's okay if it was impossible.....」

Saying that as prelude, Kaede started talking about it. And Izu who heard what Kaede was saying until she ended, started reciting it as to check.

asdsa

「You want an equipments that with its specs not considered, you want it white and detailed. And to make that, how much will it take...huh. Let me think...if there are some materials that you will have that can be used, probably about one million gold for one set. Depending on the materials you bring, the specs will get higher though」

The Mirror of the Dark Night is a large shield for battle that is not suitable for taking skills.

Because of that, Kaede decided to have a large shield that is for skill taking, but she wanted to consider how it looks. That's why she didn't think think of buying cheap shields. Now that she had gathered attention, she wanted to be fashionable.

That's why she wanted to have a complete set of equipments.

After the jet-black equipment, next is pure-white equipment.

Mufufu Kaede laughed. Inside her head, she imagined herself being clad in those equipments.

「I understand! I will come and bring the money and the materials!!」

Just like that, Kaede jumped out of the store.

To find out where to get the materials needed for the equipments that she wanted for herself, Kaede came back to the information bulletin boards.

First of all, a pure-white material that have a certain hardness is needed. Kaede picked up two materials that are fit for that from the BBS.

The first one is White Crystal. But, Kaede knew that she couldn't mine it with her 【DEX 0】.

That's why, Kaede decided to go for the other one.

The location is the wide underground lake south from the town. It is being told that this lake has some kind of secret, but suspicious things like that hadn't been found.

Her target in there is a fish that swims with a group, that has snow-white hard scales. One of them is a blue-colored leader that is almost transparent in water.

「There was that kind of story in elementary school right～! That's nostalgic!」

After buying new fishing tools, Kaede eagerly started walking towards the underground lake.

「Well then...Fishing, Let's go!」

Pochan with the sound of that, that was the start signal for fishing. After that, she should only wait silently until the prey get caught.

And, after 20 minutes.

「I-It hooked!」

Kaede puts strength and pulled the fishing rod. The splashing waters echoed through the silent underground lake.

And, finally caught a pure-white fish, and it *PichiPichi* flopped behind Kaede.

After leaving it like that for a while, leaving about a one 5 cm scale, it became light and disappeared.

The original scale was smaller, but it's she thought about it as the game's setting and put it in her inventory. She still needs to fish a lot, but Kaede has school tomorrow.

「To think, that it would take this much time...gugugu...after fishing the last two, I'll just have to go back for today huh...」

Fishing was set to be relevant to the DEX and AGI status, so Kaede's efficiency is the lowest. If it was a non-combat player's status, they probably can fish one every minute.

It couldn't be helped, so Kaede ended it there and logged out.

She couldn't neglect the real life just for the sake a game.

「Fuu...I'll end it here today! I have to prepare for tomorrow!」

Kaede turned off the hardware, and stuffed her bag according to tomorrow's schedule.

「Well then.....good night」

After laying in bed after a few minutes, *Su～Su～* Kaede started to sound asleep.

She is surely seeing a good dream.

[Chapter 11 <-> Chapter 13](#)

Chapter 13 – Defense Specialized and A Friend

Chapter 13: Defense Specialized and A Friend

「Well then...I'm going!」

She wore her uniform and went to school.

In these few days, the sunlight had gone stronger, and the warm sunshine feels good. It can be said that spring has finally come.

Kaede's seat was by the window so if she let her guard down she might fall asleep. If it goes like this, Risa who was two seats apart will be on a sleeping course in the afternoon class.

And, while thinking of that, she was walking on the road to school. Kaede's house is near the school, so she come to school by walk. That distance, it is only a five minute walk.

Pleasant wind was blowing, and it is not a bother to walk.

Because she didn't suffer from hay fever, Kaede liked to walk during this season.

「Yosh! Let's also do our best today～」

Passing through the school gates, went towards her classroom, and she arrived to her seat. After this, she would have started reading books, but when she started New World Online, it was the time to think about skills. If there was this kind of skill, what are the requirements to get it, just thinking about things like that, she was having fun.

「I wonder what you are grinning at～!」

Supako—n a tsukkomi to Kaede's head.

The tsukkomi was mostly Risa.

「I-It's nothing at all!」

「Really～? Oh, that's right. I didn't come for that today, ehem.....fufu...by the way, Kaede-kun. I have a very important announcement today」

Saying that, Risa bended her waist and swiftly approached her face. Clearing her throat, and went on her way of saying it, to Risa who made a mystery character, Kaede also went with that.

「Mumu!...What is it, Risa-kun. Your tension is high today ne」

「Right, that's right, you wouldn't believe it! It was because the permission to play the game, I got it today!!」

PachiPachi Kaede clapped lightly.

She probably did her best on studying, Kaede knew how happy she was. And only seeing her expression, Kaede also became happy.

「With that, the game that I only pushed on to Kaede, I can finally play if from today～」

「Then, we can be in a party right!」

「Un, yeah yeah. Party huh.....I mean, did Kaede already started playing?!!」

It looks like Risa was surprised, and said that in a loud voice.

By the way, these two goes to school early so there are only the two of them in the classroom. They didn't need to care about the surroundings.

「E...Ehehe...」

「That Kaede, that Kaede that reluctantly plays with me on the game that I pushed on her...」

「You knew you were pushing them on me?!」

「Iya～I'm so happy～...I thought that playing together was impossible, but to think Kaede was willing to play...」

And then, Risa continued the talk.

「Up to what level did you raise it? Or did you only made an account?」

「E～to～...uhmm...t-to level 20」

Risa was astonished in an instant, but as soon as she understood what Kaede said, she started grinning.

「Ohhhh～...it looks like Kaede was more addicted than I had expected」

「Muu～...」

Kaede was glaring at Risa while blushing. Risa was still laughing merrily, but it's not like she had a bad intention, so Kaede didn't say anything.

「Ahaha, sorry sorry, it's just a joke, but, if you had levelled it that much, then your character build has been decided right?」

「Un! I'm a full defense build large shield user you know! And then～...if it's Risa then I can tell huh～」

Kaede talked everything about her skills and status to Risa.

「What's with that monster character! As expected of Kaede, the direction of the play is too different」

「Eh!...Really?!」

「Un, I mean, what you got in that different direction is too OP. Ah～...it would be hard to catch up to Kaede with this huh...」

「B-But, if you do the same thing...」

When Kaede said that, Risa crossed her arms in front of her chest, making a cross sign, and shook her head.

「Kaede is Kaede. I am me. I don't mean to brush off the skills that Kaede told me as a friend! Well...I'll use it as a hint on getting strong skills though. Let's keep that as it couldn't be helped」

「Then, what will Risa do?」

「Kaede is a tank defense specialized, so I thought that a magician would be good, but if I paired with Kaede with that on a party, that's too normal. And, I won't be needed if I chose that」

Mu～, groaning like that while thinking, Risa probably had an idea, and she grinned.

「Yosh! I decided! I will...become a 『Dodge Shield』」

「Dodge...Shield?」

「Un! I'll make the enemy's attack focus on me, and I'll nullify their attacks by dodging」

「Ohhhh!! So cool!.....but, if it's shield, I can do it?」

Kaede thought about that question and said it. Right, it cannot be helped if shield classes gathers.

「A party with Kaede, whatever fight it is, no damage! We're always unscathed! How is that? Isn't that cool?」

Hearing those words, Kaede imagined that scene, and *BunBun* swung her head vertically. She was so excited even her arms are *BunBun* being swung.

「I want to make a party with that concept so I will aim for the dodge shield!」

「Do your best! I'll just increase my defense powers right!」

And, with promising to play together tonight, the two's conversation ended. Risa also went back to her seat.

「Dodge Shield...the difficulty is the highest level? But, that's why I get fired up...!」

She mumbled that with a small voice, so it didn't reach Kaede's ears.

It was probably the nature of a gamer.

Risa tend to prefer selecting achievement requirements that are difficult.

What Risa said earlier, to achieve an undefeatable unscathed party, the first prerequisite is for Risa to continuously dodge enemy attacks.

Magic that are shot tens of times.

High speed combination attack.

Dodging those with a very fine line and defeating the enemy, just imagining doing that.

「I get shivers in my spine...!!」

Risa couldn't help but pray for today's class to end very quickly.

[Chapter 12 <-> Chapter 14](#)

Chapter 14 – Defense Specialized and Fishing Day

Chapter 14: Defense Specialized and Fishing Day

「Ohh! The town looks like this～!」

Risa looked around, and raised a voice happily. Looking at Risa to herself at the start of the game, she thought about it nostalgically.

「Kaede's...oh-to.....that's dangerous. The difference between the looks of Maple's equipment are too high it feels bad」

Risa rephrased it to her player name and talked.

Kaede also need to be careful to not call Risa by Risa.

「Ahaha, well you only have beginner's equipments」

Risa and Kaede immediately registered as friends, and when they made a party, she showed Kaede her status.

Sally

Lv1

HP 32/32

MP 25/25

【STR 10〈+11〉】

【VIT 0】

【AGI 55〈+5〉】

【DEX 25】

【INT 10】

Equipments

Head【———】

Body【———】

Right hand【Beginners Short Sword】

Left Hand【———】

Legs【———】

Shoes【Beginner's Magic Shoes】

Accessories【———】

【———】

【———】

Skill

None

「You raised many kinds of status huh」

「This is normal you know! ...I didn't raise VIT,MP, and HP for the mean time right now」

「Why?」

「Dodging everything, if it was no damage, HP and VIT isn't needed right! I'm still not sure if I'm going to use magic...so MP and INT is okay if its low for now. STR is because I want to use some weapons」

「You're thinking a lot huh～」

Because Kaede only needed to raise her VIT after levelling up, so she doesn't need to think about anything.

「Fufufu...there are a lot of things needed to be thought about compared to a person who has no damage from attacks. Now that I think about it...wasn't the 3rd prize an equipment?」

Risa was curious because they were still the equipments that she had heard.

「That was commemoration medal. I was expecting that it might've been an equipment though～」

「Well...it's not sure that it would still be like that the next event～.....oh-to, then? ...where are we going right now?」

When Kaede said that the destination was to the underground lake, *FumuFumu* Risa nodded. Looks like she has an idea.

「If it's that, leave it to me! I have a great idea...」

Kaede listened to her honestly.

Risa was sprinting towards the underground lake. Even inside the game, moving a lot will make the brain tired and the movement dulls, but this has individual differences with players.

Depending on how good the brain works, differences between reaction and stamina will have effects on player skills.

The reason why Risa can run this much was because she was used to VR.

And Kaede at that time.

She was clinging on Risa's back.

She removed all her usual heavy equipments, so there might be more people who wouldn't know it was Maple.

STR stats are not relevant on equipping armors, but if it was carrying, STR is needed the more armor there is.

That is the reason that she removed her equipments.

「Three wolf-type monsters ahead! Maple!」

「I understa～nd～!」

Saying that, Risa put Kaede down and took a distance.

Risa who has high AGI carry Kaede and runs to the underground lake, and if there is an enemy encounter she puts down Kaede to fight them, with that division of roles, they arrived at the underground lake one fifth of the time it would take for Kaede to go alone.

「Ohhhhh! It was very fast!!」

Kaede, re-equipping, said that.

Risa was proud because she was useful immediately.

「Fufufu...kneel before me～!」

「Ha,ha—! Sally-sama～!」

With the farce moderately, the two started fishing. Risa also bought her fishing rod, so they lined and waited together after hanging a thread towards the lake.

And an hour after they started fishing.

「I-It's finally the third one!」

「Oh, it got hooked again!」

The fishing result was, 3 fishes for Kaede.

And 12 fishes for Risa.

「Thanks to coming here on level 1, just killing the fished fishes, my level went up」

In fact, Risa's level rose to 6.

In addition.

「【Fishing】skill get～! ...my first skill is 【Fishing】huh...I can't say that Maple is weird huh～」

【Fishing】skill requirement needs more than 20 DEX so it a skill Kaede wouldn't have forever.

「Won't Sally use the status points?」

「I will do that after taking a few skills. Fighting style can be decided by skills... so I thought I should keep the status points. I can fight decently with base stats too」

「You're good～ you advanced player～!」

「Well, it's true I played a lot of games」

After saying that, they continued fishing for another hour.

Kaede's fishing result hadn't changed.

But Risa who gained the skill 【Fishing】 her fishing results became 20 fishes.

「How is it? Is it enough?」

「U～n...last hour...is it okay?」

「It's okay～! But, I want to test something...so instead of fishing, can I go hunt by diving?」

「It's okay, but can you do something like that?!」

「I think it's possible. I mean, it is Maple who was testing ridiculous things up until now you know? I think that if it's with my AGI, I could probably kill at least one fish in a school? Since, I'm good in swimming」

After saying that, Risa jumped to the underground lake.

「Then, do your best～!」

「Un! I'll go hunt a lot～」

After saying that, Risa dove. And just like that, Risa who swam around the underground lake returned after an hour. She was breathing heavily, but you wouldn't think that she was sprinting earlier with her stamina that was left.

「After getting 【Swimming I】 and 【Diving I】, it got easier!」

After saying that, Risa took out 80 pure-white scales from her inventory.

「C-Can I have this?」

「I don't need it too...in exchange, you should help me the next time」

「Then, with that! I promise I'll help you」

Kaede thankfully placed the 80 pieces of scales to her inventory. And there, Risa started talking with a serious face.

「Ne～...Maple. If I was correct, wasn't the dungeon found right now only two?」

「Uhhh...Un, that's right」

「At the bottom of the underground lake, there was a small side hole」

「.....! That is!」

Risa who couldn't hide her excitement nodded.

「It might be a dungeon's entrance...but...」

「Un...I can't go right」

With Kaede's status, she wouldn't be able to dive decently. If she drowns, it's her first death.

「That's why, I'm thinking of capturing it carefully. I might also get a unique series just like Maple...that's why...」

When Kaede understood what Risa was trying to say, she said, interrupting her.

「Un, I'll help you to come to the underground lake! I can return the debt instantly!」

「I thought that you would tell that! As expected of Maple!」

「Ehehe～it's not that much～!」

They only needed to logout to return, so to increase the level of 【Swimming】 and 【Diving】 Risa once again, started swimming.

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Chapter 15 – Defense Specialized and Underground Lake Capture

Chapter 15: Defense Specialized and Underground Lake Capture

532 Name: Nameless Large Shield User

did everyone already went to second stage? I entered the second stage safely

533 Name : Nameless Spear User

Yeah

I just won earlier and entered second stage

534 Name : Nameless Large Sword User

I also safely won

535 Name : Nameless Magic User

I also

I won

I did it

536 Name : Nameless Bow User

somehow, I also reached second stage

537 Name : Nameless Spear User

a-re? aren't we pretty strong

538 Name : Nameless Large Sword User

when I was raising my level so that I can follow Maple-chan when she goes to the second stage...

I arrived the front lines

539 Name : Nameless Bow User

the same happened to me

539 Name: Nameless Large Shield User

and Maple-chan though

it looks like she's not yet on second stage

I mean, it shows that she's in a party in my friend list though

540 Name : Nameless Bow User

I saw probably saw that

541 Name : Nameless Magic User

>540

give us more details with that

542 Name : Nameless Bow User

I dunno the name but she's wearing beginner equips so I think it's a friend irl

543 Name : Nameless Large Sword User

what's her weapon?

544 Name : Nameless Bow User

it was short sword yo

545 Name : Nameless Magic User

that's surprising

I was thinking it was a magician or an archer

546 Name : Nameless Spear User

same

547 Name: Nameless Large Shield User

well, that formation isn't good fighting with a pair but...it's Maple-chan's friend right

who knows if she really is a normal beginner

maybe she is also the same "beginner" type as Maple-chan

548 Name : Nameless Magic User

that's possible

548 Name : Nameless Bow User

Maple-chan「Full build is strong you know!」

Friend「Really?! Then I'll do that!」

this

549 Name : Nameless Large Sword User

a party with two Maple-chans huh

there's nothing that can be done with that

550 Name : Nameless Spear User

hey guys, calm down

it's a short sword user you know

550 Name : Nameless Magic User

ahh that's right

somehow, I instinctively imaged a large shield

551 Name: Nameless Large Shield User

if it's short sword, then AGI specialized?

552 Name : Nameless Bow User

but, that doesn't seem very strong

553 Name : Nameless Large Sword User

well, no defense powers so it ends with one hit right on top of that, zero fire power

554 Name : Nameless Spear User

well, she will probably show that by herself soon

when's the next event again?

555 Name: Nameless Large Shield User

about a month from now, it looks like they're going to accelerate game time from real life then, even is for two hours, and because of the time acceleration, they said participation and leaving isn't allowed it looks like the game management shortened the span time of the previous event

556 Name : Nameless Magic User

game management, super competent

557 Name : Nameless Spear User

if it's still a month, she probably would train

and play style will show too

we can determine with that

558 Name : Nameless Large Sword User

ah～next event, come faster～

I'm so curious about that girl's skills～

Not having any clues of that conversation being held.

Kaede and Risa was spending their time fishing and swimming at the underground lake. Even that is said, Kaede sometimes goes outside and lays around, and do the strange movement of using 【Provoke】 and be attacked by monsters.

She was thinking of taking the damage reduction skills after her new shield is made so she was looking for a new skill.

By the way, today, it was already two weeks since Risa had started.

It's not like the two are logging in at the same time.

Risa also plays in different times, and gains a lot of skills that are very easy to take other than 【Swimming I】 and 【Diving I】.

While the two of them are steadily readying up for the event, they are staying the underground lake that might have a dungeon in the bottom of it.

「Puhaa...! Ha～...Ha～...how long did I dove?」

Risa raised up to the water surface and asked Kaede the time.

「I-It's amazing! 40 minutes!」

「Having the 【Swimming X】 and 【Diving X】 means...this is my current maximum limit...so if I don't reach one way within 20 minutes I'll drown huh...」

「How about I'll send a message using the friend chat after 20 had passed? The notice sound echoes inside the head so I think you'll notice」

「Nice idea, Maple! Then...can I count you on it?」

「Leave it to me! Enjoy diving～!」

「I'll be going!」

Risa dove in the water with amazing speed and entered the side hole.

As expected that hole goes through its back, and it stretches deeper and deeper, and Risa was swimming there as if she was a mermaid.

But, seeing that the roads are branching, Risa stopped her movements. It was because she was thinking that it was a one way path to its deepest part.

Risa was thinking that it was going to be hard, but going left and right, she was mapping on her head.

After moving forward for a while, the notice from Kaede reached her head.

Because monsters didn't appear on the way, without irregularities, she was able to go back to where Kaede was.

「Ha～...Ha～...」

「How was it?」

「There were a lot of branching paths...so I'll end it for today after last one.

Since I don't know how deep it is」

「Then, I'll notify you again okay」

Risa once again went to the bottom. Last time, she was able to go to the maze up to the middle, so she was moved there in the fastest way.

One more time, she checks every possibility and went deeper and deeper.

And just like that, at the same time the notification from Kaede came.

Risa saw a large pure-white door ahead of the passage.

Yosh, she made a small guts pose, and returned the way she came from. Risa needed to be fully prepared so that she wouldn't let away the unique series.

「The boss room! I found it!...ha～...ha～...」

As soon as she emerges, she said that and did a high-touch with Kaede. The only thing left is whether she could win safely.

「I will charge to the boss room after taking a small break! Since, I had found it. What will Kaede do?」

「I think, I should logout soon for today」

「I see...I'm sorry making you go with me」

「I don't mind at all! Do your best and win」

「Un!」

After saying that, Kaede was enveloped with light, logged out and disappeared.

The silence made Risa's concentration higher.

「What should I do with the status...」

Sally

Lv12

HP 32/32

MP 25/25〈 +10〉

【STR 10〈 +11〉】

【VIT 0】

【AGI 55〈 +5〉】

【DEX 25】

【INT 10】

Equipments

Head【―――】

Body【―――】

Right hand【Beginners Short Sword】

Left Hand【―――】

Legs【―――】

Shoes【Beginner's Magic Shoes】

Accessories【―――】

【―――】

【―――】

Skill

【Status Debuff Attack II】【Slash】【Double Slash】【Gale Slash (HayateGiri)】

【Muscle Strengthening (Small)】

【Consecutive Attack Strengthening (Small)】【Double Attack】【Powered Attack】【Switch Attack】【Body Arts I】

【Knowledge of Short Swords II】

【Fire Magic I】【Water Magic I】【Wind Magic I】

【Earth Magic I】【Dark Magic I】【Light Magic I】

【Fire Ball】【Water Ball】

【Wind Cutter】【Thunder Cutter】

【Dark Ball】【Refresh】

【MP Strengthening (Small)】【MP Cut (Small)】

【MP Recovery Speed Strengthening (Small)】【Knowledge of Magic II】

【Fishing】【Swimming X】【Diving X】【Cooking I】

【Mining Speed Strengthening (Small)】【Sensory Blocking II】

【Sensory Awareness II】【Stealth Move I】【Leap I】

【Poison Resistance (Small)】

「The 35 status points, I won't place them yet.....I'll win by dodging」

The ridiculous skill set was what Risa collected by cutting off her sleep.

About MP, there was 7 MP consume cut.

Recovery speed +50%. MP +10

In strength

STR +50%

When consecutive attacks, the power increase is maximum STR +100%.

「Yosh! Let's go!」

After Risa made her strategic plan, she returned quickly to the large pure-white door.

The door opened slowly. Inside was a spherical room, and half of it was submerged in water.

The most happy thing for Risa, was there was oxygen. With this, she didn't need to prepare for a quick fight to end.

「Puha...well then～...Come!」

Risa's eyes were dyed with serious color. And as if to answer that, a light concentrated and made a shape, and a giant pure-white fish appeared.

The giant fish uses its giant body for a charge attack.

Risa completely saw through that with its movements, twisted her body to dodge it in a fine line, and while passing through she used her red shining short sword to cut through the scales and meat a little.

「【Slash】!」

Under the red light, what dyed the blade with a poisonous violet was 【Status Debuff Attack II】

That will fill the body of the giant fish with poison.

It was only a little damage, but the giant fish's HP was surely being shaved slowly.

The giant fish turned around, and charged again.

Risa dodged that the same way, and shaved its body.

「【Wind Cutter】!」

A few red damage effects shone in the water. The magic that has the strongest power Risa had, has enough powers to slightly damage its scales.

With the charge that was done repeatedly, Risa couldn't be injured.

And the giant fish's HP bar had been reduced to 80%.

In this time, Risa heightened her concentration, and focused on the giant fish's movements.

The charge that was repeated the same might've looked the same for normal players looked very different to Risa. It was clearly, slower.

The giant fish stopped the charge in the middle of it, and released a AOE attack to its front using its tail.

But, that also didn't reached Risa.

Risa had predicted the timing of the movement pattern changing by looking at the reduction of the enemy's HP bar on the top of its head.

She saw through the AOE attack precisely from its body length, and by stepping back once, the tail fin passes by in front of her. And she cuts through that tail fin with a skill.

「【Double Slash】!」

Risa who didn't receive an attack from the giant fish until now has her consecutive attack damage up on its maximum.

Deeper until now, the red effect entered the giant fish's tail fin twice.

And at the same time. It's movement were slowed by the paralyze poison poured to the enemy by the 【Status Debuff Attack II】.

「【Power Attack】!」

To the giant fish that dulled its movements, the short sword was stabbed to its hilt. Risa quickly pulled it away and took distance. The giant fish's HP was cut to 50%.

It was the time its movement pattern changes.

In the both sides of the giant fish's body, a white magic circle emerges and bubbles emerges from that.

「【Water Ball】!」

When Risa hit the bubbles with magic, the bubbles exploded with loud sounds. That bubble couldn't be touched.

While running away from the giant fish, Risa made the bubble explode with water magic and made an escape path.

Risa who was running around noticed that the giant fish's movement pattern was to run after her where she had gone through just like a tracking type.

If it was like that, she thought.

While running away she turned back and made the bubbles explode using water magic. Risa adjusted her body through that instant opening.

「【Power Attack】!」

The red effect remained one a one straight line on the giant fish's back.

The giant fish that was deeply cut from its head to its tail lost 20% of its HP bar. And turning back just like that she cut the tail fin with blade a few more times.

In that instant when it turned back to run after Risa. The barrage of bubbles

that couldn't follow the speed of its body became thin.

And Risa wouldn't let that go away.

「【Wind Cutter】!」

The blades of winds that passed through the bubbles made a deep wound on the giant fish's head. And finally, the giant fish's HP Bar was cut to %20 and was dyed red.

And at the same time. The magic circle on the side of the giant fish disappeared, and the room was submerged in water.

A magic circle that spawns exploding bubbles appeared on the walls in all sides.

Kapa the giant fish opened its large mouth. From inside of its mouth a magic circle that shines stronger than the bubble magic circle.

Risa's sensor from all the games that she played made her body move instinctively.

Soon after, a high-speed water laser was shot straight where Risa was before.

Risa got anxious. To dodge that the next time, luck will be needed.

And the bubbles were catching up.

This is bad. This is bad.

The anxiety stops her thinking.

It should be calm at times like these.

Risa said to herself. Calming her anxious heart and focused deeply.

Just as if time had stopped.

The bubbles, the laser, and even the giant fish's movement.

Slow, it had become slower.

The dangerous place, the safe place, she knew it as if they were in the palm of her hands.

The subtle movement of the enemy's body, its sight.

She predicted where will be the laser shot.

She predicted where the barrage of bubbles would go next where it would be dangerous with the position of the bubbles right now, and she went earlier to make an escape route. Comparing it with her experience before, create the next, next move for the most efficient path to survive.

That can already be called future prediction.

Overwhelming player skill that was almost a cheat.

「【Wind Cutter】」

The magic that was silently shot, got through the bubble curtain beautifully and hit the giant fish every time.

And finally.

The giant fish's HP bar became empty.

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Chapter 16 – Defense Specialized and New Knowledge

Chapter 16: Defense Specialized and New Knowledge

After the water that has accumulated disappeared completely, a large treasure box appeared in the middle.

Rather than being happy first, Risa laid down on the ground faced up.

「Ah～...concentrating seriously is tiring after all...」

Notification of level up and skill acquisition echoes, but as if to say checking that is for later, Risa continued to lay down.

If possible, she didn't want to enter that mode, but even if it was Risa that barrage and the high-speed laser was too hard.

After laying back for a while, Risa returned her tension to normal, and went towards the treasure box.

「Here I come, Open!!」

She quickly opened the cover with both hands.

What's inside was a muffler with a vivid blue base just like the sea, and to its end, there was white that reminiscences bubbles.

A thick coat that a little darker color on the white fur on its neck line, and top and bottom garment that matches that.

And two daggers that were dark blue as if it was the deep-sea where light does not reach, and a dark blue belt that can sheath those with.

Risa checked the specs of all equipments.

『Muffler of the Surface Water (Minamo no Mafura)』

【AGI +10】【MP +10】

Skill【Mirage (Shinkirō)】

【Indestructible】

『Coat of the Ocean (Taikai no Kōto)』

【AGI +30】【MP +15】

Skill【Ocean (Taikai)】

【Indestructible】

『Leggings of the Ocean』

【AGI +20】【MP +10】

【Indestructible】

『Dagger of the Deep Sea (Shinkai no Dagā)』

【STR +20】【DEX + 10】

【Indestructible】

『Dagger of the Bottom of the Water (Minasoko no Dagā)』

【INT +20】【DEX +10】

【Indestructible】

「This is...maybe the way I took skills had an effect? Fufufu...equipments that I like. I have more equipments than Kaede...but I don't have 【Destruction Growth】 and skill slots huh」

Equipped them with the equipment window, and cheerfully made a turn. As a belt equipment, it a part of the leggings, and did not fill a slot on the accessories.

Different to Kaede's time, wearing unique skills that have a big increase in status, Risa left the cave.

While thinking of checking the skills tomorrow with Kaede. She was that tired.

The next day.

「Ohh～! You became cool!」

「I know right～! I didn't get shoes so I bought black boots...with this, the uniform appearance is perfect!」

And, the two checked the skills that they gained one by one.

First was the skill that was with the equipment.

After that, the two new skills acquired will be checked. But even that said, one of them was a skill even Kaede knew.

【Mirage (Shinkirō)】

When activated, the opponent's visual information on coordinates and the true coordinates can be distorted.

Target is everyone excluding the user.

Can be used 10 times a day.

The effect duration is 5 seconds. Also, if an attack was received by the vision 【Mirage (Shinkirō)】 created, the effect of 【Mirage (Shinkirō)】 will be lost.

【Ocean (Taikai)】

When touching monsters, players, water that reduces AGI by 20 will be spread thinly on the ground in a circle around the user. Cannot be used in air.

Area of effect is fixed at a 10-meter radius.

Only the user will be excluded to that effect.

Can be used 3 times a day. Has a 10-second effect duration.

【Jack of All Trades】

Damage dealt reduced 30%. 10 MP consumption cut.

【AGI +10】【DEX +10】

Skill Requirements

10 Weapon • Attack skills acquired

10 Magic • MP skills acquired

10 different skills acquired

Within that, more than 10 skills are at their lowest level.

After completing these requirements, attack a monster.

The last one is 【Giant Kill (OomonoKurai)】.

「Oh～...I see I see. If I got 【Jack of All Trades】 before that giant fish it would've

been bad」

After that, *U~n* Risa groaned.

「I don't need 【Giant Kill (OomonoKurai)】 I think~...」

「Eh?! Why?!」

「Well if it was Maple it would've been useful...but I'm not a full build so depending on the opponent, the AGI raises or not raises, that would make my senses weird you know」

When the status suddenly increases regardless her intention, the sense for dodging would be distorted so it would be troublesome for Risa's play style.

「Ah~I see...」

「This would be 【Discard】 huh...」

「What's that?」

「Eh?」

「Eh?」

The two of them looked at each other.

「【Discard】skills...that was possible...」

「I'm rather surprised that you didn't know thought? Well, but to regain the skills are used with 【Discard】a special facility will be needed and 500k gold is needed to be paid, so it's really only for the time it's not needed」

After saying that, Risa 【Discard】 the 【Giant Kill (OomonoKurai)】.

Her level that was 12 raised to 15.

There is already 40 status points with this, but it looks like Risa won't use it yet.

「Yosh, it's enough with this I think! Also, that's right! What happened to Maple's equipment?」

「n~I don't have gold so I asked for a large shield for the mean time. Short sword and armor will be postponed」

「I see! The event is close too...I want to gather more skills a bit~」

「If it's like that...you want to go to the second stage?...what do you want to do? Probably, there's unique series there though...」

The requirement to go to the second stage is breaking through a『Dungeon』. Equipments would probably be gained in a solo breakthrough.

「U～n...I think I'm fine with it～...I also like the equipments right now」

「If Sally was fine with it, then I'm fine too. I can gain a large shield normally too」

The two went towards the dungeon that goes through the second stage. The way of moving is the same as the time with the underground lake.

「It's fast as I've thought～!」

「Grab on firmly?」

Their destination is the north.

With this pace, it shouldn't take too much time.

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Chapter 17 – Defense Specialized and Stage Capture

Chapter 17: Defense Specialized and Stage Capture

「Arrived!」

「Yo～sh, let's enter right away!」

In front, there is the entrance of the stone ruins.

If the information was correct, this should be the dungeon connecting to the second stage.

Kaede, in the lead, walked in the path. Just by holding the Mirror of the Dark Night while walking, the defense is perfect.

After walking just like that, they encountered a monster.

What appeared in front of them was a boar that was a little huge.

「【Wind Cutter】!」

Risa took the first move and shot magic. But that only decreased its health bar by 20%

「Mu...the power was decreased a lot. This is, I think I should raise my status debuff skill huh～」

While she was saying that, the boar regains its posture and charged again. It was colliding towards Kaede with a lot of momentum.

It was devoured by the large shield.

「n～...can I count on you during fights with the boar?」

「Okay～!」

Because the path was narrow, the boar charging was suicidal.

The boars that doesn't know about Kaede's large shield jumps in by themselves.

While going through left and right of the forks, they were slowly moving deeper.

「Oh! A different one came!」

When they entered a corner, what appeared in front of them was a bear.

The bear would also jump in just the same, so Kaede made a stance with her shield. But, though.

When the bear swung its huge arm strongly, claw-shaped white effects flew.

That was devoured and disappeared because of the large shield, but it was enough to make Kaede surprised.

「I-I was surprised」

「To think that it would attack in long-range. In addition, it's blocking the way while taking distance」

The bear that had a complicated movement pattern compared to the boar, is probably a monster of a higher rank than the boar.

「I will try to defeat it. Take a straight stance and make the large shield stand」

Kaede dropped the large shield to the ground by herself.

It looked like that.

That was the same with Kaede and the bear, and the bear thought that it was a chance, it charges.

Kaede also, if there wasn't the touch of the large shield in her hand, she would've probably reached down to the ground.

At the same time, the bear reached where the large shield was in the first place, it's body disappeared.

And, as if nothing has happened, in the place where there shouldn't be anything, the large shield appeared. The large shield that fell on the ground also disappears.

「The test of 【Mirage】is a success, I think?」

「【Mirage】huh～! I, when the large shield suddenly fell to the ground, I was really surprised」

「This time I tried it as a test, but there is limit on its use and I want to save it for the boss, that's why I'll count on you during the fights for a while!」

「Un! Leave it to me!」

Kaede and Risa once again moved deeper to the back. The dungeon looks like it wasn't that deep, and with only about 10 fights with the monsters, they were able to reach the boss room.

They opened the large door and entered.

A wide room with a high ceiling continues to the back, and in the deepest part, a large tree was standing.

After a second after the two entered the room, the door behind them closed with a sound.

And.

MekiMeki the large tree changed its shape with that sound, and became a giant deer.

The horns that the large tree had changed to had lush vivid green leaves, and bright red apples also grew.

After it shook its body made of trees, it stamped the ground and glares at the two.

「It's coming!」

「Okay～!」

Where the deer was standing, a green colored magic circle appeared and started shining.

It was the start of the battle.

When the deer stamps the ground, the magic circle shines, and giant vines appeared by piercing from the ground, and attacks Kaede and Risa.

「Yo! to.....」

「Haha! You're too slow!」

Kaede's large shield received the vines head on and devoured them. Risa, with her impressive dodging skills, she evades the attacking barrage of vines easily.

The main fire power was Kaede's Shingetsu.

Kaede, as if to counter, she released the dragon made with poison.

That devoured the vines, melted and erases them, and pressed into the deer.

But, the poison dragon was blocked by a shining green wall in front of the deer and disappeared.

「Eh?!」

「Probably, it's that magic circle! The damage won't get through!」

The deer once again stretches its vine and attacks. The silver lining was that itself was no problem for the two.

The two endured like that for a while, but Risa who thought it had no ends suggested.

「I'll go inspect for a bit, so can you tank for a while?」

「I got it!...【Provoke】!」

The destination of the vines clearly changed to Kaede. In that chance, Risa went to do tests.

After attacking it continuously with magic and making its wall appear, Risa finally noticed something.

「Damage goes through to its horns! ...also, it looks like the wall was supported by the apples!」

Risa pointed at the shining apples within the tree leaves. When the wall was activated the apples were clearly shining red.

「Then...leave it to me! I will make them blow away altogether!」

「Un, I'm counting on you!」

Kaede thrusts Shingetsu. The poison dragon that appeared again, this time without being blocked by the wall, devoured all of the tree leaves and melted them.

「【Wind Cutter】!」

This time, without being blocked by the wall, the attack reached the deer properly. The red damage effects appeared.

「Yosh! It got through!」

「I'm going with a huge one!」

ParinParin the crystals that emerge from the large shield shattered with that sound, and a giant purple magic circle formed from Shingetsu at the same time. That increased its light for a while, became a poison dragon with three heads, and attacked the deer.

The deer's body melts, and the red effect flows continuously. It was surely a deadly damage.

But, the green magic circle that the deer was standing noticeably shone brighter and healed its wounds. When the HP bar recovered to 20%, the poison status debuff was cleared, and the magic circle, as if it was done with its work, faded and disappeared.

「That one earlier, can you shoot it again?!」

「I can, but it would take for a while!」

While consulting, there was no way the deer would wait for them, and the deer that changes its movement pattern attacked with blades of wind and vines that got one size bigger.

In addition.

「!!」

「Uwaaaaaa!!」

The ground suddenly raised and attacked the two from the ground. Risa precisely sensed that and dodged it but Kaede was thrown into the air.

It was no damage, but when Kaede hit the ground, she received the status debuff 【Stun】 and couldn't get up. Normally, she wouldn't have a chance to survive, but after that, even receiving the blades of wind, seeing that her HP Bar was not reduced, she probably would endure it until she stands up.

But, it was sure that the activation for Kaede's skill would be delayed.

「It can't be helped...it's a pain though...」

Risa held daggers with both of her hands, and ran.

Regardless of her words, her expression was very happy.

「I should do(kill) it huh」

Completely seeing through the enemy's attack.

To Risa on her concentrated state, attacks this much was almost nothing. Tracing the narrow paths surely, and when she approached where the deer was standing with 【Leap I】 she jumped to the front of the deer.

That was the only safe point on the battlefield that has nonstop blades of winds.

「I know that it's safe her you know?... 【Double Slash】!」

Spinning her body, with the daggers in her both hands, she released four consecutive attacks.

By holding two weapons, she could release twice the attacks with one. Each one of the attack damage would fall compared with only one, but it overwhelms with the number of attacks.

And Risa, with her face just like that, runs towards its back.

「【Power Slash】!」

Two consecutive attacks that slashed through the nape of its neck from its forehead.

In addition, she burned its back with Fire Magic.

Blades of wind flew towards Risa who was running around its back.

But, it was easy to dodge.

「n? This wasn't a safe spot huh」

HyunHyun she moved while she dodging the flying blades of wind. Finding chances and when finally its HP Bar was erased with consecutive attacks.

「nn!.....t-that's right! I have to fight...」

Kaede finally stood up and looked at the deer.

Although, she could only look at the deer that became light and disappeared in front of her face.

「Ehhhhhhhhhhhh!?!」

「I ended it while you're asleep」

Risa returned and said that.

To Kaede, it became a somewhat unconvincing dungeon capture.

But anyways, the two were able to get the rights to move to the second stage.

[Chapter 16 <-> Chapter 18](#)

Chapter 18 – Defense Specialized and Maintenance

Chapter 18: Defense Specialized and Maintenance

「Auu～...」

Kaede and Risa started their activities in a new base town in the second stage, but Kaede was groaning with a dark face.

「U～nn... I also didn't think that there would be a maintenance two weeks before the event. In addition...」

Right, the two logged in immediately as soon as the maintenance ended.....but they were stunned by the contents of the maintenance.

Mainly, Kaede.

The contents of the maintenance were about nerfing of some skills and buffing the AI of the field monsters.

The targeted skill name, in the settings of the game, was not cleared, so only those who have them knew it.

And, there was also one thing that changed.

That is.

The implementation of defense ignoring attack skills, and the reduction of pain.

There are three to five kinds of skill per weapon

And its power was very decent

The problem was the skills.

「Ugugu.....」

「Well... that happens all the time for somebody who stands out」

Don't mind it, Risa tapped her shoulder.

There are mainly two adjustments related to Kaede.

But, Risa said that thinking about it with a roundabout way, it was three of them.

First, in skill fixes, 【Bizzare Eater(Akujiki)】 was fixed.

After the fixes of 【Bizarre Eater(Akujiki)】 its abilities was limited uses of 10 times per day, and the MP that will be absorbed will be doubled.

It hadn't changed that it was a passive skill, so after receiving attacks ten times with the large shield, the Mirror of the Dark Night will return to a normal large shield. The MP that can be absorbed became double so it can somehow become a magic power tank, but it hasn't changed that it was nerfed.

Next, the buffs of monsters, they are now able to attack from behind, in some cases, they are now able to run away.

This is for stopping Kaede, Risa told Kaede. To Kaede who doesn't seem to understand, Risa explained in details.

「Because...if the AI is buffed, the origin of Maple's 【Absolute defense】, the loophole of the white rabbit couldn't be used again right? The white rabbit with buffed AI wouldn't charge for one hour... and maybe it was also an unexpected way of taking that for the GMs?」

In this maintenance, it prevented the occurrence of an irregular called Kaede, but according to Risa, they couldn't do a maintenance that was clearly aimed to reduce Kaede's specs.

「For example... deleting the 【Absolute Defense】. That wouldn't happen I think.

「Probably though... some of the powerful skills that the top players was also nerfed, I think. And it means, one of those is Maple's 【Abominable】」

「n～... well, I also think it can't be helped. 【Abominable】 is very powerful after all. But... that fix, huh～...」

Figuring out what Kaede wanted to tell, Risa continued to talk.

「With this, Maple will now also receive damage right huh..... that adjustment is probably countermeasures against Maple～」

「Ugugugugu...」

Maple's endurance was clearly off the balance, so the management side's last resort was only to implement this fix.

「Well, ignore defense attack is a very common skill, it was until now that it was very few」

When Risa said that, Kaede stuck together her hands and talked apologetically.

「Ah～... I'm sorry! I stopped being invincible... with this, we can't be an invincible party... although you became a dodge shield」

Saying that, Kaede apologized to Risa. The two's ideals were a party that both of them has no damage. If it was like this, they can't do it.

「That cannot be helped. And, you are now able to receive damage... but it's not like you're going to receive no damage anymore at all..... “Although the damage effects are being grinded, she wouldn't die even after grinding this much!”, that would emphasize the feeling of invulnerability. If you just smile fearlessly, you're still going to be so cool!」

Kaede imagined that with an opponent, their only hope was they were able to deal damage, and while laughing like *Fufufu* while receiving their desperate attacks, defeat them when they are exhausted.

「Oh～..... it is certainly nice...」

「You're making a dark smile you know?」

「Wawa! Y-You didn't see that right now! You did not!」

Saying that, *BunBun* she swung her arms. Risa continued while laughing pleasantly.

「n～... but if it's like that, I need to increase my HP. Being damaged with defense ignorance is not good..... is the pain okay?」

「Well... it's not that, painful though? It's nothing much compared to real life... in addition, the pain is being reduced too, so」

「I should do my best to get better player skills and block attacks as many as I can..... and also recovery type skills and equipments, maybe I also need the MP and HP types huh?」

If she had those, in the end, it would be like she was invulnerable after all, Risa

said.

「I'll help you gather equipments! Also, I'll find skills that looks good」

「I-Is it okay?」

「It's the game I invited to, if I can play together with Maple, I'll do that at least you know? I mean, you want to go right now?」

「Thank you!」

「Well, there are also times when I need help, so...」

「Un! At that time, I'll do my best!」

Kaede answered with a wide smile.

「Well then... let's first acquire skills that can raise HP. That's the most important one. I know a little too, and after that huh. The event's also near, let's hurry!」

「Oh~!」

The two jumped into the field.

To acquire new skills, cover Maple's weaknesses, and leave good results in the second event.

They are going to do what they can today.

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Chapter 19 – Defense Specialized and Under Preparation

Chapter 19: Defense Specialized and Under Preparation

It has been a week after she started gathering skills with Risa.

It means, at the time where there is only one week left before the event, Kaede logged in alone and was searching for skills.

「I noticed it first after being said, but... the skills that a person that uses a large shield in a party, I don't have all of them」

Risa told her that the skill tree of the large shield that is for defense power and about defense is very abundant, and she was basically trying to acquire those skills when she logged in alone since they couldn't log in at the same time.

By the way, she already gathered some skills that she wanted for mostly HP strengthening and MP strengthening together with Risa.

Kaede, while checking her status, searches for skills that she probably needs.

Maple

Lv24

HP 40/40〈+60〉

MP 12/12 〈+10〉

【STR 0】

【VIT 170〈+66〉】

【AGI 0】

【DEX 0】

【INT 0】

Equipments

Head【———】

Body【Armor of Black Roses】

Right hand【Shingetsu : Hydra(Poison Dragon)】

Left Hand【Mirror of the Dark Night : Bizarre Eater(Akujiki)】

Legs【Armor of Black Roses】

Shoes【Armor of Black Roses】

Accessories【Ring of the Forest Queen Bee】

【Toughness Ring】

【———】

Skill

【Absolute Defense】【Giant Killing (OomonoKurai)】【Hydra Eater (DokuruuKurai)】【Bomb Eater (BakudanKurai)】【Meditation】【Provoke】【Abominable (Gokuaku Hidō)】【Knowledge of Large Shield IV】【Body Manipulation】【Attack Diversion】【Shield Attack】

【HP Strengthening (Small)】【MP Strengthening (Small)】

She acquired the skill 【HP Strengthening (Small)】and【MP Strengthening (Small)】, increased her HP by 30 and MP by 10.

In addition, thanks to the Toughness Ring that Risa gave, her HP increased by 30 in addition.

It would seem like it was very little, but for the meantime, Kaede's HP was raised to double with that.

Risa said that she was going to quickly acquire the ignore defense attack before the event.

The reason is, to measure roughly the damage to Kaede. Because they couldn't afford on testing it without practice.

「I gained a lot, so, I need to have skills that would be useful...」

And just like that, Kaede puts an eye on one skill.

「【Cover Move I】and【Cover】... the large shield's basic skill huh～... although I didn't have it」

The skill used to protect party members, an exclusive skill for the large shield. A skill that can be said, all players using the large shield and that is in a party have.

Kaede also, since she is in a party now, was now interested in the skills that she thought she wouldn't need when she saw it before.

【Cover Move I】

Ignoring the AGI stat, will be able to move to the party member within the radius of 5 meters.

After use, damage received will be doubled for 30 seconds.

Can be used maximum 10 times.

The maximum times usable will recover every hour.

Skill Requirement

To be purchased from the Skill Shop.

【Cover】

Cover the party member besides the user from attacks.

When used, VIT would be increased by 10.

Skill Requirement.

To be purchased from the Skill Shop.

Skill Shop is, the NPC shop that is selling the basic skills for the different types of equipment.

Other than【Cover Move I】and【Cover】, 【Slash】and【Double Slash】can be bought there.

From the lots of gold that she was able to have from selling the white scales obtained from the underground lake, she could easily buy at least two.

「Let's go buy it!」

Kaede walked towards the NPC shop.

With this, she thought that it was needed because she might be able to save Risa when she's in a pinch.

Kaede left the store while holding a bag in one hand after buying the skill. Inside the bag, was two scrolls that have the skills in it.

After Kaede sat down on a bench, *GasaGasa* she took it out and spread it while making that sound.

And together with that, the letters that were written shines with light, and as if to match the dissipating light, the scroll crumbles down, becomes a light and disappears.

『Skill 【Cover Move I】 has been acquired』

「Ohh～～! So pretty!」

Kaede took out the 【Cover】scroll, and spread it out very quickly.

That released the same light, crumbles, and disappeared together with the light.

「Ahh～... it has ended already. Do I still have some skills that I need.....」

She had researched about the skills that she needed to get right now so there wouldn't be something like that.

「Well, whatever..... I might need to increase it again someday... rather than that, maybe I should go and get better player skills as Sally said!」

After saying that, she went towards the second stage's field very eagerly.

「Uu～... it's slow. It's very slow. My walking speed, was it really this slow.....」

Being told by Risa, the place where she came to was a desert. And after walking a while there, she stopped. Risa told Kaede that the place she is right now is the best place in the desert.

「n～..... I can't see any enemies though～..... Uwaah!?!」

From the impact from behind, Kaede almost fell forward.

Damage was of course zero, so there wasn't any danger of dying.

「W-What is it!! Hey, is that it!」

Kaede saw the Pillbug type monster that seems to have tackled her from behind rolled around.

After rolling for a while, it returned from its round body, and crawls down beneath the desert sand.

「I see... practice defending with that huh～」

Kaede changed her large shield to a pure white shield.

The pure white large shield that seemed like the fresh snow, was sprinkled by blue jewels in some parts.

The name of the large shield is 【Snow White】, and it was a large shield made by Izu.

【Snow White】

【VIT+40】

Compared to the Mirror of the Dark Night, it was simple and didn't even have a skill, but its VIT increase was higher than the Mirror of the Dark Night right now.

From this, you can really see how good Izu's skills are. It is the best non-combat players that are supporting the top players in the front lines.

「Yosh... let's do our best!」

After saying that, to the back of the head of Kaede who was making a stance with the large shield, the pill bug hits.

「Uwah! W-Wait a second, hey!」

It is not like the monsters would wait for her, and another one hits Kaede who was shouting.

「Ugh!..... I-I'm going to get angry!」

Stands up, made a stance with the large shield, and focused her ears.

Risa said, it is important to find the enemy from the sounds that come from the enemy's movements.

「n~..... here!」

Kaede adjusts the large shield to her right. And at the same time, *Gatsun* the pill bug that jumped out hits the large shield and was reflected.

「Yosh!..... Kyaa!」

From behind Kaede who was content being able to block it, another pill bug hits her.

「I-I see. It's not only one. It's very hard huh~」

After that, for two hours fighting, the maximum that she was able to block was

about 40%.

From what Risa had said, if she was able to block all of them, she would probably not receive the ignore defense attack for most of the time.

「40% huh～..... well, I did my best with that huh～, really, how can Risa dodge that much...」

While her friend that seemed like the enemy attacks were the one who dodged comes to her mind, she logged out for the day.

Back in the in a little time, the time when Risa logged in alone.

「Yosh, it's about time I used my status points. I already decided my plan. n～... it's better having a lot of ways to attack... so 15 to STR and 20 to AGI, and the left to the INT... with this, I've used all of them!」

Sally

Lv18

HP 32/32

MP 25/25〈+35〉

【STR 25〈+20〉】

【VIT 0】

【AGI 75〈+68〉】

【DEX 25〈+20〉】

【INT 25〈+20〉】

Equipments

Head【Muffler of the Surface Water (Minamo no Mafura) : Mirage(Shinkirō)】

Body【Coat of the Ocean (Taikai no Kōto) : Ocean(Taikai)】

Right Hand【Dagger of the Deep Sea (Shinkai no Dagā)】

Left Hand【Dagger of the Bottom of the Water (Minasoko no Dagā)】

Legs【Leggings of the Ocean】

Shoes【Black Boots】

Accessories【―――】

【―――】

【―――】

Skill

【Status Debuff Attack III】【Slash】【Double Slash】【Gale Slash (HayateGiri)】

【Muscle Strengthening (Small)】

【Consecutive Attack Strengthening (Small)】【Double Attack】【Powered Attack】【Switch Attack】【Body Arts I】

【Knowledge of Short Swords II】【Jack of All Trades】【Divine Break】

【Fire Magic I】【Water Magic II】【Wind Magic II】

【Earth Magic I】【Dark Magic I】【Light Magic II】

【Fire Ball】【Water Ball】

【Water Wall】

【Wind Cutter】【Wind Wall】

【Thunder Cutter】

【Dark Ball】

【Refresh】【Heal】

【MP Strengthening (Small)】【MP Cut (Small)】

【MP Recovery Speed Strengthening (Small)】【Knowledge of Magic II】
【Fishing】【Swimming X】【Diving X】【Cooking I】
【Mining Speed Strengthening (Small)】【Sensory Blocking II】
【Sensory Awareness II】【Stealth Move I】【Leap I】
【Poison Resistance (Small)】

「After raising the Light Magic to II, I am now able to use【Heal】... and after raising the【Status Debuff Attack III】it's now easier to place status debuff... I also got an ignore defense attack, it feels like good on attack and support」

After saying that, Risa closed her status and went towards the field. Her destination is far within the deep forest that is a little far.

「I'll acquire a cool skill and keep it a secret to Maple, I will surprise her～!」

Risa is trying to capture one of the events with the NPCs that is currently being generated at all times in the game.

There is a small house far within the forest, and succeeding an event there, she could obtain【Super Acceleration】.

「The requirement to breakthrough is【AGI 70】, so it's good that I made it enough!」

Risa, in Risa's way, was strengthening herself towards the first event with Kaede.

Chapter 20 – Defense Specialized and Strengthening Friend

いChapter 20: Defense Specialized and Friend Strengthening

「Yosh, I've arrived!」

Risa arrived at a small house inside the forest. It was a log house.

Right beside the house, there was a water wheel that was slowly turning to the flow of a clear river.

In front of the house were a small field and some unchopped firewood that was probably left there after chopping firewood.

The sounds of the small birds echo pleasantly.

Risa approached the house, “KonKon” she knocked the door and waited.

After a while, the door opens from inside.

Who came out, was white long beard man using a staff.

「For someone to come here, how rare..... for the meantime, come inside. In these places, there are a lot of dangerous monsters」

The old man said that and let Risa enter the house. Risa obediently entered the house.

If the AGI stat is low, the old man will not be in his house, and the event will not occur.

Inside the house, there was only a few furniture.

If asked which one was the most interesting, on the top of the shelf around the ends, there was an old small sword that was emitting a very certain presence.

After that, Risa without saying anything, sat in the chair that was near to the table.

The old man placed a teacup with tea in front of that Risa.

「You should drink, your body should get relaxed a little」

「Uhm... thank you very much. Itadakimasu」

Risa drank the tea. As the old man had said, her body really got relaxed a little.

Precisely, her MP was fully recovered.

It is unknown since her HP was full, but in the information, it is said that it would recover.

「Fumu..... you should rest for a while. I will go to draw 【Magic Power Water】」

【Magic Power Water】is the water that is drawn up from the springs that recover magic powers. And the place of that springs can be heard from the NPC in the town of the second stage.

It was about 30 minutes far away in her current position.

Right here, Risa started to talk as if she was waiting for that.

「Yes, then, I will go draw it instead」

「n, really?... I'll leave it to you here huh..... recently, the condition of my feet had worsened」

When the old man said that, he gave Risa a glass bottle.

A blue colored monitor appeared in front of Risa.

It was stating, Yes, No.

Risa pushed the Yes, and accepted the quest.

The【Magic Power Water】was immediately checked by the non-combat players as soon as they get to the second stage, but they couldn't draw it up from the spring whatever they did.

They were able to drink it in that place and recover MP, but it is impossible to bring it back currently.

The only way it could be drawn up, was using the glass bottle that is passed during this event.

But, that also disappears from the inventory after drawing it up after an hour.

It means, it was a spot that was prepared for this event.

「Well then, I'll go now!」

「I'm sorry... I'll count on you」

And, Risa jumped out of the log house towards the springs.

The monsters that are inhabiting around here are mostly 3 types.

The first one is the Big Spider.

As its name is, it was a large spider. Its size is about 1 meter and it's spider thread attack that binds the target is very troublesome.

The second one is the Sleep Beetle.

It is a beetle that has status debuff attacks that make its target asleep. Its size is only a little bigger than the normal beetle, so it is a scary monster that is easy to be overlooked and receive a surprise attack from.

The third one is the treant.

It is mimicking a tree, and is good at surprise attacks.

But, it has a characteristic that it is the only one tree that has a red fruit inside this forest.

Knowing that beforehand, the chance to avoid it will surely go up. But, even without that, the attack range of the branches and roots is long, and there are a lot of players that are blocked on all sides and loses.

Risa is running through the forest.

As she has preliminarily investigated, there are not one monster appearing.

And, she properly arrived at the springs for about 30 minutes.

「It's beautiful.....」

The waters that are clear as it can be was shining faintly and shimmers to the surrounding trees and flowers.

To that fantastic spectacle, Risa stopped her feet for a while and viewed the springs.

And, after she drank the spring waters to recover her MP, she heightened her concentration.

「It's from here... huh」

Risa drew the water to the glass bottle, and put it in her inventory. The time limit is one hour.

If she cannot reach the log house within the time limit, the event will end as a failure.

And, the monsters that did not show up at all when she got here, flows out from the forest as if they were waiting for this moment.

「I should go...」

Risa looked back, and jumped to the forest and ran. The unpleasant sounds of the spiders echo.

The event really starts from here.

The path that took 30 minutes without monsters, return from there with monsters within an hour.

To obtain【Super Acceleration】, she must go through this test.

HyunHyun the threads of the spiders sounded while they shot from the top of the trees. If these hits, she would be bound and it would be the end.

「Yo, tto!!! 【Mirage】!」

Risa runs through, and to her body, a ton of Sleep Beetles hit.

But that got squashed and distorts its shape, and melts in the air.

While glancing at that, Risa broke through the swarm of the Sleep Beetle.

「That's bad, that's bad... tto!」

From Risa's feet, sharp tree roots reached out.

With Risa's status, she would surely die with one hit.

While Risa was dodging the tree roots, she checked the surrounding.

There were three trees that have red fruits with it. It was no doubt treants.

「【Fire Ball】!」

The blazing ball of fire hits the slow moving treant, and burns violently its trunk.

The treant's angry voice echoes throughout the forest.

「This is...!! That might've been a miss...」

Risa had caught on the monsters that were approaching, attracted by the treant's voice using【Sensory Awareness II】.

「【Mirage】!」

Risa made a phantom of herself run towards the direction of the springs.

The beetles got easily lured by that, but that wasn't the case with the spiders. They probably have some kind of skill, they were moving towards Risa's direction.

「It wasn't effective! 【Slash】!」

While dodging the spider threads, two consecutive attacks.

Their HP bar surely was reduced, but there's still 70% of it. She had no time at all to defeat that.

「Damn it!..... the treant is also too annoying...!」

In addition to the enormous number of enemies, they were moving as if each of them different purposes.

On top of that, the spider's AGI was quite high. It wasn't that much different with Risa.

In the first place, that was natural since it was a quest made for AGI Specialized to challenge it.

「【Ocean】!」

From Risa's feet, water thinly spread. The spiders that were chasing her plunged into that and decelerates.

「【Slash】!... 【Wind Cutter】!」

Slashing through the roots and branches of the treant, Risa continued to move forward.

The distance between the spiders gradually opened.

But it also wears out Risa's nerves.

She would be caught if she stops running, but this is inside the forest.

The trees that were crowded, the bushes beneath the feet, and there might be mud somewhere.

If she was caught on her footsteps, the situation would only be the worst.

Risa heard a flying sound with her ear, and turned around.

「Beetles again?!..... no way」

The monsters that inhabit this forest are “mostly” three types.

Right, there was another type of monster that was rare to encounter.

Approaching from behind, was a giant dragonfly.

And its name, Wind Dragonfly.

Its name comes from the way it flies at high speed as if there were no trees at all, while accelerating with wind magic.

「That's too unlucky!..... damn it...! 【Wind Cutter】!」

She threatened, shooting blades of wind to her back.

In this situation, there was no time to fight. She should do something and run away somehow. Even now, their distance was gradually closing up.

Highly mixed wind magic passes through Risa with sounds of cutting wind. While dodging the wind magic using the trees as a shield, she spreads out the 【Ocean】and checks the spiders.

She diverts the Sleep Beetle that flies from the side with 【Mirage】. Just like that, while she was running, she was once again surrounded by monsters.

Impatience appears in Risa.

「Spiders coming from the front... treant from the left. I'll go left!」

Using【Sensory Awareness II】at its fullest, she gained the information the most she could get, and chooses the best route.

To the direction where there are more trees, to where it is hard for the dragonfly to fly. Three treants in front of her. Of course, there was no time to make an opponent of them.

「【Mirage】!」

The treant easily fell for it, and pierces out tens of its sharp branches towards Risa's phantom.

The treant, seemed to have felt it clearly, it was having a creepy laughter triumphantly.

「Thank you! You really saved me!」

Risa, with relief, mumbles.

What it pierced through wasn't Risa.

It was the wing of the Wind Dragonfly, one of it.

Even if it was the Wind Dragonfly, it couldn't completely dodge the unexpected attack.

The Wind Dragonfly that had its wing broken drops its speed.

The distance with Risa opens up.

GachiGachi the Wind Dragonfly shot wind magic to Risa while sounding creepily, but that kind of desperate attack had no way of reaching Risa.

「Ha～...ha～... Arrival!! Ha～! Seriously, maybe this is the most exhausting ever...」

There was the log house in front of Risa.

She took 52 minutes, and reached it just below.

Risa opened the door of the log house.

「I have returned!」

「Ohh! I have been waiting for you, thank goodness that you're fine, thank goodness...」

Risa who broke through tens of deadly situation made a subtle face, but the old man did not care about that and continued to talk.

「Fumu... I have to give my gratitude... let me see, come here for a second」

After saying that, the old man brought out one scroll from the drawers.

「You can learn the skill【Super Acceleration】with it. It should help you somehow... you don't need abstain」

After saying that, the old man's appearance blurs and disappeared.

「It is something I don't need」

A voice came from behind Risa, Risa turns back in a hurry.

There was the old man, smiling happily as if a boy who has succeeded his prank.

「Fufu... you should devote to your training」

「Y-Yes!」

She instinctively replied, and Risa left the log house.

Gaining a new power.

Chapter 21 – Defense Specialized and Second Event

Chapter 21: Defense Specialized and Second Event

Risa and Kaede were in the town of the second stage.

Because today was the day for the second event, their fighting spirits were perfect, they also did all they could do to prepare.

And right now, the announcement from the administration came.

「This time's event will be an exploration type! The highlight is the 300 pieces of silver medal scattered in the field after teleporting! Gathering 10 pieces of these will make it into a gold medal, and you are able to exchange the gold medal to skills or equipments when the event is over!」

The announcement flows like that and the status window opens by itself, and shows the gold and silver medal.

Within those, Kaede was familiar with the gold medal.

It was the gold medal that Kaede received as a commemorative gift for the last event.

「The players in the top ten of the last event already have 1 gold medal each! You can defeat and steal it from them, or you can ignore and do your best on exploring!」

Some accessories such as luxurious rings and bracelets, weapons like large swords and bows are shown one next to the other in the window, every one of them is sleeping somewhere in the field that they were about to go.

Of course, there was also large shields.

「Even if you die, you will only drop medals! Your equipments would not drop so please do not worry! The only time that the medal would drop is when you are defeated by a player. Please do not worry, and do your best exploring! After death, you will respawn at the initial point that you are going to be teleported!」

For the meantime, it was a relief.

If the equipments wouldn't be stolen, it would be at ease to some extent.

They could do their best on exploration.

「This time's event will last one week in game time, the time that would pass outside the game would only be two hours since we will be accelerating the time! There are some spots inside the field that monsters would not come inside so please take advantage of it!」

It means, even after sleeping and spending time inside the game for one week, it would only pass two hours in reality.

「How can I say this, that's a strange feeling」

「They said, once you log out you're not able to join the event again, that's why, we can't log out if we want to join the event until the end. After that... they said that party members will teleport on the same place」

Risa and Kaede heard the explanation, saw it in the status window, and after discussing, decided to try to not log out.

「Medal enough for two, I hope we get it」

「Un, let's do our best!」

The body of the two became light, and disappeared from the town of the second stage.

「n..... we're here?」

「Looks like we've arrived」

The feeling of earth that is sensed from the feet.

The two was in the middle of an open grassland.

You can see islands floating in the sky as if gravity had no effect on them, and you can also see mountainous areas far away. And in the wide open sky, you can see the appearance of dragons flying elegantly.

The field that the administration prepared this time, was a very rich and natural, utopia for monsters.

It was a fantastic world that was as if taken out from anybody's fantasy world dream.

「Ohh～! Beautiful!」

「Amazing... it's so beautiful shiver came down on my spine」

The two were walking on the grassland while talking, and even though they walked for 20 minutes, they didn't encounter other players. Thinking that Kaede immediately had an opponent last time, maybe this time, the stage that was set this time might possibly very wide.

「Will we be able to find a medal～...」

「Who knows? Well, let's do it slowly? There's still a lot of time」

The two was talking like that, but they a goblin pushing aside the small grass on their right. It looks like it has targeted the two, and chases after them even though they went left.

「If the opponent is only a goblin... Snow White is good enough huh」

Kaede reequipped her large shield. Because she could not be wasting 【Akujiki】.

「Can I use this equips for a while? I'll just change it to the Mirror of the Dark Night in case of anything」

「Okay～! I'm counting on you. This time, I'll defeat them okay?」

Risa approached the goblin very quickly and swings her dagger. The goblin tried to receive it with the club in its hands, but there was no way that the weapon with bad quality could stop Risa's dagger.

Supa, the club was cut off together with the very deep red line in the goblin's body.

And, the first attacker easily became light and disappeared.

「Oh～! You're really fast!」

「Fufufu～ thanks! I wonder if this is the area for weak monsters?... there might not be any medals」

「n～... maybe so. I think that the medals are in a place more difficult to see」

It looks like Risa agrees on Kaede's opinion and for the meantime, searched around caves or forests, terrains that seem to have a lot of monsters.

And walking about an hour after that.

「Right, Grasslands! Left, Grasslands! Behind, Grasslands! In front, Grasslands!」

Risa couldn't help but be shouting. Wherever you look, it was all grasslands. It was definitely grasslands up to the horizon.

「It's too wide～... for a while now, only goblins come out... see, it came again...」

As Kaede had said, the goblin was walking while dragging a rabbit that it probably caught as prey. It doesn't seem to have noticed Kaede and Risa, *GugyaGugya* it was laughing happily with an annoying voice.

And while Kaede and Risa were looking at the goblin, it “walked” into the ground.

「「.....eh?」」

The two was astonished and petrified, but when they regained their senses, they quickly moved to the place where the goblin disappeared.

「T-There's nothing?」

「No... there's definitely something! There should be!」

Risa had some kind of idea, and shot the space around there with【Wind Cutter】.

It cuts through the distorted space, and that scene returned to its normal state.

In the two's feet, there was a staircase leading to the underground.

「A skill like【Mirage】... it was hiding the entrance with that. Maybe, there's another entrance. This grassland, are wide after all...」

「You want to enter?」

「Of course! a cave that is hidden very carefully... there should be one or two medals for sure!」

「Yo～sh! Then, let's go!」

The two entered inside the cave.

「Yo...tto!」

Risa slashes through the goblin's face with her dagger.

It was not like the monsters inside were especially strong, so they were defeated easily with Risa's attacks.

The path was wide enough for the two to walk side by side, so she is free to swing around her weapon.

「Another branched road...」

Kaede whispered.

As Kaede had said, this cave had quite a lot of branched road. It was stretching to a lot of paths just like the ant's lair, and there were also a lot of dead ends and small rooms.

「Which way should we go... Maple, what do you think?」

「.....then, to the right! It is going down to the right, so I think that if there was a boss it would be in a deep place!」

「Okay~, then right it is」

The two moves ahead of the path. And entered a little larger room.

That time.

A roar echoes through, and the ground trembles.

The two felt instinctively. That this was the boss's roar.

And with that, footsteps and metal sounds approached the two. And with it, unpleasant cries.

「The boss might've commanded something, the goblins are gathering!」

「What should we do?」

To Kaede's question, Risa said while making a stance with her weapon.

「This room is only connected to two places, I'll leave the other one to you!」

「Okay~! Leave it to me!」

Kaede still doesn't exchange her large shield.

She was thinking of saving it for the boss.

Kaede drew Shingetsu.

It was the start of the fight.

「【Hydra(Poison Dragon)】」

She attacked full force from the start. Because the more she increased the number she attacked, the more that Kaede loses her attack power. If it was possible, she wanted to clean it up with one shot.

The Poison Dragon that was shot towards the goblins rushing inside the room, was stopped by shining barriers in front of the goblins.

In the back of the passage.

There were three goblins that were taking a stance with their staff in the back of the horde of the goblins.

That is probably, the magic of those three.

But, it seems like that was their trump card, the three was breathing with their shoulders.

Kaede's attack was just that strong.

In regardless of that, the damage dealt by the Poison Dragon was not only that.

Even if it was blocked, the poison itself that was scattered around wouldn't disappear.

The goblins that touched that poison agonized, collapsed, became a light and disappear.

Even so.

The goblins stepped on their allies that collapsed before they disappear, and came across the sea of poison.

They couldn't go against the command from the boss.

They were just, moving towards the enemy in front of them.

「【Shield Attack】!」

Kaede's attack had almost no damage directly, but it pushes the goblins to the sea of poison with the knockback effect.

Kaede only repeated that, and the number of goblins was decreasing. The three goblins that would've originally support them with magic was already exhausted.

「【Shield Attack】! It's the end, with this!!」

When the last goblin sank the last time. It looks like Risa also had ended fighting and went towards Kaede.

And, she noticed the magician goblins and started to attack with magic.

「【Fire Ball】! And, 【Wind Cutter】!」

It looks like it didn't have any defense, the magician goblins were defeated easily.

「Good work, Sally!」

「You too, Maple. That being said, you really did it very flashy〜」

Risa was looking at the sea of poison with surprise and astonishment.

「Ehehe... rather than that, let's go! There is surely a boss in here!」

While making a shy laugh, Kaede changed the topic.

「I guess so, let's go! ...yo!!」

Risa jumped over the goblin that was agonizing in the sea of poison. Kaede of course, walked over it. Her poison resistance was perfect.

「If I was to touch it, I'm out with one shot」

She wouldn't receive damage from friendly fire magic, but the effects that it does is different.

It means that if a branch burned by an ally by Fire Ball was touched, there would be damage.

「I'll be careful okay」

「Please do」

The two went deeper and deeper to the cave.

The final battle, is very near.

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Chapter 22 – Defense Specialized and Boss Extermination

Chapter 22: Defense Specialized and Boss Extermination

「Boss room-like room, I found it!」

In front of them was a door that didn't exist until now.

Opening the wooden door which was about 5 meters, they entered.

Inside was wide, and dim.

It was about 10 meters to the ceiling, and looking around, the width is about the same.

And the depth was about twice, and a huge throne was placed in the deepest.

And, on that, a giant goblin that has a hideous face was sitting.

It was sitting, so its size was not clear, but it was about as large as the door earlier. It was about three times of the normal goblin.

The goblin noticed the two, and roars.

To its tremendous volume, the two scowls.

「Let's defeat it already! It's too noisy!」

「I agree, let's go!」

Risa nodded.

Kaede changed her large shield to the Mirror of the Dark Night, for the final battle.

The distance to the goblin was about 20 meters.

Risa closes that distance with her top speed.

But, the goblin did not see that off.

Beside the throne, it took a giant saber that was placed in it and stood up, it was drawn violently while moving forward.

The impending deadly blade together with its tremendous sword pressure.

「【Cover Move】! 【Cover】!」

Risa didn't knew if she could dodge it. Because Kaede received the saber that was twice her height with her large shield without being intimidated, and erased it. The enemy's main weapon with overwhelming destructive powers was removed from the start of the fight.

The saber became light and disappeared.

「Nice! Yosh.....!!」

Risa approached the boss further, and from this, Kaede's movements were unexpected for Risa, and maybe even to the goblin.

「【Cover Move】!」

To Risa who was running, Kaede was able to keep up by suddenly accelerating. The attack from the goblin hasn't come.

Risa, while being surprised, approached the boss.

「【Cover Move】!」

Kaede forcefully keeps up with Risa. With this, the two of them arrived in front of the goblin together.

The goblin swings down its muscular arm together with a roaring sound.

But that attack did not hit Risa.

With her proud dodging skills, she did not receive the simple attacks of the goblin. Risa, just like that, jumps up and aimed at the goblin's stomach.

When Risa's dagger was at the distance when it can reach the goblin's body.

「【Cover Move】!」

Risa made a wry laugh because of the way she uses Cover Move was already ridiculous it could be called its name.

Kaede was now close to the goblin, and entered the distance where the large shield can reach.

After Risa dealt an attack, she left that place.

Kaede twists her body and swings the large shield.

「How～is～it!! This power!」

A flashy damage effect the width of the large shield was ground on the goblin's abdomen, and its HP bar was reduced by 30 percent.

And as if it provoked the anger of the goblin, it hit Kaede and fell to the ground.

「Fufufu... two times damage? Two times zero is zero!!」

The two times damage received demerit of the 【Cover Move】became nothing in front of the erratic defense powers of Kaede. But that being said, her armor wasn't like that, and it had cracks and crumbled.

「Ue!？」

Kaede was surprised, but when the armor shines faintly, it immediately came back to its former shape.

「Ah!! I see,【Destruction Growth】!」

The destroyed equipments would grow more robust and solid.

Risa called out to Kaede.

「Can you do it one more time?!」

「Of course!」

Kaede stood up, and looked at Risa's movements.

And, the instance that Risa was about to be hit by the goblin's fist.

「【Move Cover】! 【Cover】!」

She stood in between the fist and Risa and adjusts her large shield.

That hand was devoured to from its fist, became light and disappeared. It was swung down in full force to catch Risa who was quickly so its momentum wouldn't stop.

The HP bar decreases tremendously again.

There was only remaining 40% left.

Kaede draws out Shingetsu.

「I should at least do something right! 【Super Acceleration】!」

Risa's body blurred, and accelerates.

Risa moves behind the goblin in high speed.

「【Double Slash】! 【Wind Cutter】! 【Powered Attack】! 【Double Slash】!」

Combined with the speed of the 【Super Acceleration】, it was hit with high speed consecutive attacks. Even doing all of that, the gauge only fell by 15% so it was really clear how ridiculous Kaede's large shield was.

After being attack by this much, the goblin couldn't help itself to face Risa's direction.

As the goblin turns around, as if to overlap the red damage effects, golden effects envelopes its arm and punches.

That attack didn't hit Risa but the ground it hit was caved..

「Its power is rising, but... it's too slow!」

Risa moves away from the goblin, and the goblin tries to chase Risa with blood-shot eyes.

「Is it okay? Chasing after me? I'm sure... that one's scarier?」

「【Hydra(Poison Dragon)】!」

Kaede's voice calls out a three-headed poison dragon.

The goblin that left behind the huge threat trying to chase after Risa received the attacks of the Poison Dragon from behind.

In addition to the huge damage of the Poison Dragon, the top level poison damage.

Even so, the goblin was somehow standing, probably because of its pride as a boss.

But that couldn't last long, and its huge body changed into shining lights and explodes.

「Good job～!」

「You too... and? what was that weird movement?」

「Weird movement, oh you mean【Cover Move】? That's great right! It had moved as I've thought so I was able to use it for attacking!」

「The only one who can live using it like that, and be able to deal decent damage, is Maple alone you know.....」

In reality, if a large shield user was to copy that, he would probably sink after receiving two times the damage.

In addition, the only person who have that ridiculous attack power is about Kaede alone.

If it was only fire power needed, it doesn't need to be a large shield.

「Sally was also so fast! That last one!」

「Well, it increases AGI by 50, so. I can't use it because of its 30 minutes cooldown, but... it's enough I guess」

「But, I can only use 【Akujiki】7 times left... I tried to not use it that much in the short term decisive battle...」

「Well, the Maple right now has bad fuel efficiency huh. This time's skill acquisition, let's get good ones!」

「Un, I guess so!」

After saying that, the two went towards the throne where the goblin was sitting on.

There wasn't much decorations but it was a huge treasure box.

「I'll open it?」

「Okay～! Open it!」

Risa opened the treasure box.

Inside was, a saber that looks just like the one that the goblin had.

And, two pieces of silver medals shining.

「We did it! It's a medal!」

「In addition, two of them, it's two of them!」

The two didn't care about the saber and was crazed about the medal. In the first place, the two cannot equip the saber, so it was natural that they weren't interested.

「If there is two medals per dungeon, then... there is 150 dungeons...?」

「The difficulty might be different? Having a stronger boss for example! Other than that... something like, it is hidden but it has no boss...」

「Ahh, I see, there's something like that huh」

Risa stopped thinking of it, took the saber and looked at its specs.

【Saber of the Goblin King】

【STR +75】

【Damage Acceleration】

「Uuo～... that's a pretty brain muscle weapon～...」

「How does it look?」

「It's easy to get destroyed so it's not for long fights, but it has STR+75」

「We can't equip it right?」

「Un」

「The equipment's a miss huh～...」

「Do you want to search for the next dungeon? There's a magic circle in the back of the throne, I think we can go outside when we stand on it」

「.....if it's only one, maybe we can do it today? I also think that the skills can take it!」

After discussing, the two stood on the magic circle.

Thinking of Kaede's【Akujiki】, it would be better using all of it in a day's exploration.

It couldn't be carried over tomorrow, so the number that they can capture would decrease.

And when the light disappeared, they were at the grassland earlier.

「I forgot..... for the meantime, we should start from getting out of the grasslands...」

「W-Where do you think we should go?」

「Forward! Probably that is the best way. It shouldn't be all grasslands up until the tall mountains that we saw on the start」

「Well, that is true!」

The two started walking towards the mountainous terrain.

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Chapter 23 – Defense Specialized and Exploration Resume

Chapter 23: Defense Specialized and Exploration Resume

After the two walked through the grasslands for an hour.

They could already see the forest ahead.

The two regained their liveliness and increased the pace they were walking.

「W-We finally made it!」

「What a deep forest...」

The two entered into the forest.

The dense forest was not letting most of the light pass from the sky, and was very dim.

And, it has a lot of bushes making it a terrain well suited for the surprise attack from monsters.

「I will protect you alright～!」

「Really, I can count on you more than anyone else」

The attack that would make Kaede collapse, anybody wouldn't be able to endure it. Risa, while being cautious of the surroundings, hid in Kaede's shadows while moving ahead of the forest.

And after 30 minutes.

There wasn't one surprise attack that the two was worried about after all, and their exploration continues peacefully.

「Nothing's coming out?」

「Instead, it's too eerie that nothing's coming out」

「Ahaha... that's true...」

Shin, the forest that was very silent was as Risa had said, very eerie.

The more they move deeper, the sounds were really disappearing.

「C-Can we talk about something?!」

Because of the anxiety beyond description, Risa shouts.

「Eh?! I-It's okay though? Uhmm...」

At the time when Kaede forcefully started to talk to change this atmosphere.

The two heard *Po*, a sound of igniting a fire.

Because it was the first sound since they came here, the two sensitively reacts, and looked towards where the sound came from.

And, the two saw a few blue supernatural fiery balls, floating, and approaching them.

「This is a game, this is a game, this is a game.....!! Yosh, it's okay, it's okay.....」

Risa mumbles to herself.

「That's not okay at all, right?!!」

「You want to run? Let's run? Let's do that?」

It was proven that it was not okay.

「Well, using【Akujiki】is also a waste, so.....」

「T-Then remove your equips! I will let you ride okay!! It's coming you know!」

Kaede left Shingetsu equipped just in case, and rode on the back of Risa.

That instance, Risa started to run without saying anything.

After that supernatural fiery balls appeared, the monsters also became lively, and.

Floating skulls, supernatural fiery balls with different colors, zombies, and transparent humans, various kinds of ghosts and specters started to appear.

「Khuu.....! We shouldn't have entered this forest!!」

「Oh~! What a beautiful flame! There's also a green one there!」

The two who have an intense difference in temperature just as a desert and a tundra, ran around the forest without fighting.

And, they finally found a crumbling deserted house, and jumps in it like an emergency escape.

「It's crumbling... you want to search around?」

「I'll leave it to you」

「Well, you've always been bad with ghosts right~」

「That's impossible getting used to that. It's inside the game, so it's better

since we could run away from them.....」

Risa, seemingly very exhausted, sat on the chair in the deserted house. Kaede started to search around, but in the first place, there wasn't many furnitures inside the deserted house.

There was only a worn out table, and the worn out chair that Risa was sitting on.

The dirty carpet placed beneath the table.

And an old chest of drawers.

In this room that there wasn't even a bed, a person couldn't live in it.

The windows are shattered in some parts, it was barely closed shut with the remaining shards of glasses.

「Inside the chest of drawers if... there's nothing huh～」

Kaede had a faint expectation that there might be a medal, but it couldn't go that easy.

Kaede opened her status, and checked the current time with the clock that was with it.

「What do you think? It's already past 6 in the in-game time... it's evening soon」

「Ah～... maybe that's why the ghosts came out... we had the wrong timing to enter..... we have some food that we had brought so we can do something about it though. I think I'd hate to stay here～..... but～」

Risa silently took a glance outside of the window.

There were silhouettes that were clearly not of the players outside.

Since the monsters were not entering the deserted house, it seems to be safe. But if they go outside, it would sure be a pandemonium of hell for Risa.

「It can't be helped... I should bear with it.....」

Kaede who finished searching around sat beside Risa. Because there wasn't a chair, directly on the floor.

「Re-equip just in case, there... large shield is, Snow White is good huh..... after that, you want to play trump cards?」

Inside the game, a few simple entertainment items exist. That was one of those.

「It might distract us for a while, but... we're only two so it will end fast you know?」

「Ah! I-I see! I was not thinking of that!」

Risa saw that Kaede, *Fufu* laughed.

It looks like she regained herself a little, and received the trumps card that Kaede was reaching out, and begins to distribute it.

The night had just started.

「Yo～sh... it's this!!」

「There, too bad, it's joker desu」

「Gugugu.....」

Kaede groaned.

The two were playing games, trump cards, Othello, and chess that Kaede brought out one next to the other.

In the middle of it, they ate dinner, and continued the game.

It has no problem even if they didn't eat inside the game, but Risa said that she wouldn't be at her best if she didn't eat just like in the real world while in spending time inside the game, so they brought a lot of food.

Risa gave food to Kaede, and the two ate.

What Kaede brought was only about entertainment items.

「n～... this one! Yosh, I won!」

「Damn it～...」

It was like a scene cut out from a school trip, but it was a sea of trees around the, and they were inside a deserted house.

「That took plenty of time huh... it's already 10」

Kaede checked the time, and returned the trump cards and the rest into her inventory.

「They're still eagerly walking around outside, so... this is, sleep the night here huh～...」

「I think that's good. I think that there's probably medals or equipments inside this forest, so... isn't it okay in the morning after the monsters disappeared?」

「I'm sorry, we couldn't explore」

「It's okay, right! But, you should do your best tomorrow!」

「I understand!」

The two took out their sleeping bags, and spread it on the floor.

They said greetings to each other, and got on the floor.

Because the possibilities of monsters attacking weren't zero, the two slept two hours alternately.

First, it was Kaede's turn to sleep.

「It's quiet～...」

Inside the deserted house where Kaede's sleeping sounds could only be heard, Risa sat on the chair and got cautious of the surroundings.

Their worries were only a pointless concern because the monsters didn't attack.

And at the time when it's 12, when she was about to wake Kaede up.

A low, unclear voice was heard near the table.

It was intermittently, but it can be clearly heard.

「Uuuwwaaaaaaa!!」

Risa who stood up to wake up Kaede, fell towards where Kaede was.

Kaede was sleeping because of the defense powers that she had even with that, but she woke up with the triple combination of the loud sound of the armor hitting the floor, Risa's shouting voice, and the low voice.

「What happened.....?」

「I-It came out!! In the table! In the table!」

Leaving Risa who had lacking vocabulary because of the fear and impatience for the meantime, Kaede approached the table.

She really could hear a voice from there.

Kaede focused on hearing to find out the place where the sound comes from.

「The table... beneath it?」

There, was a tattered carpet spread.

Since Risa had curled in a corner, she moved the table with full force.

【STR 0】means something like that.

And she flips out the carpet and checks what's below.

「This is... there is underground?」

The floor had a cut in it, and had a handle.

Kaede immediately opened that.

「It opened easily! ...stairs huh」

The voice was getting louder, the source of it was below there for sure.

「I'll go exploring okay?」

「I will...also go. It would be bad if Kaede got defeated...」

Risa stood up slowly, and stuck closely to Maple from behind.

「Ahead, leave it to me～!」

「Thanks... yosh...! Let's go!」

Risa regained her fighting spirits, their destination is where the echoing voice from the underground comes from.

The two went down the stairs.

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Chapter 24 – Defense Specialized and Underground Exploration

Chapter 24: Defense Specialized and Underground Exploration

The two were walking one step at a time, and cautiously went lower and lower.

The voice was getting louder and louder. Kaede was in front to prepare for a surprise attack while going down the stairs, then saw a door ahead.

Kaede placed her hand on the door knob.

「.....it isn't locked. I'm going to open it」

「Okay～. Yosh, come!」

Kaede made a stance with her large shield while opening the door. Because the door was opened, the voice could be heard clearer.

「It hurts.....it hurts.....ahhh...ah」

Kaede showed her face from the large shield, and peeked inside.

Inside the room, was a candle melted to half placed in the middle of the ground.

And what it shimmers was, a bloody man that was tied to a chair.

「He doesn't seem to have hostility.....? But he isn't a player either」

Following Kaede, Risa carefully showed her face from Kaede's back. And she scowled with his painful appearance.

「What should we do?」

「n～... he's saying that it hurts, so... I want to cure him～...」

「I have【Heal】though? You want me to try?」

「Un... please!」

Their plan was decided and Risa used【Heal】.

A kind light enveloped the man, and his wounds healed a little bit. It was still too far away from a complete cure.

「One more time!【Heal】!」

Risa, while checking how the healing of the wounds, used【Heal】repeatedly.

After using the two MP Potion that she brought, the man's wounds finally healed completely.

The two made a very content smile.

「Thank.....you.....」

The man with his wounds healed smiled pleasantly, and slowly, his body changed into a white light, gradually dissipates, and finally disappeared.

「Did he went to heaven.....it means?」

「Isn't that the case? Probably, he isn't living at all at the first place, though.....n?」

Risa saw that there was something left in the chair that the man was sitting on.

Inside this dark dim room, it was receiving light from the candle, and shines faintly.

Risa picked that up.

「This is.....a ring?」

「Oh～! I wonder if it's that man's thanks?」

Risa checked the specs of that deep black ring.

【Ring of Life】

【HP + 100】

「n～... probably the upgraded version of Maple's Toughness Ring? The requirements to get it was simple so there wouldn't be that great of an equipment huh...」

After saying that, Risa gave the ring to Kaede.

「Maple should get it. There's nothing much for me increasing my HP」

「Eh!.....but, is it okay? It might be an event-only item you know?」

「If you really, don't like to have it for free, then I'll put it on your tab. Maple would also probably get equipments that you don't need too, so, if you're like it that way...」

「I got it! At that time, I'll give it to Sally then!then, let's equip this thankfully, there...」

With this, Kaede's HP from 100, became double, 200.

It had finally become a reliable count, it could be said.

At the same time, her accessories slot was full, so it would be going to be hard to increase her HP from now on.

「Then, let's go to sleep again...」

「The event in this forest, I wonder if it's only this?」

「n～... I wonder? There might be at least another one, but... the time period probably has something to do with it. This also, it seems like it's an event that appeared at 12」

Other than that, the time of appearance of the ghosts is most probably also was because of the time period of the event, so, they had the conclusion that they needed to explore around here for a few days to have a proper result.

「Then, the plan tomorrow is to get through this forest」

「Un, let's do that」

For Risa, this forest was not a place that she wanted to stay for a long time.

When the two came out of the underground, they returned the furniture to its original position, and when to their first plan of sleeping alternately.

「Then, good night, Maple」

「Good night～! I'll keep a tight watch so sleep without worries!」

「Fufu... thanks」

And just like that, while alternating the lookout, the night had passed.

The second day.

「Yosh, let's also do our best today!」

「Oo～!」

After the two ate a light breakfast, they moved ahead from the deserted house towards outside the forest.

To decrease the time spent, it was the usual style of Risa carrying Kaede.

From time to time, Risa climbs a tree and checks the direction of the mountainous area, and running just like that for an hour.

They finally saw the end of the forest.

「Yosh! We got through!」

「n～! It's been a while where it's bright, so it's blinding...」

Kaede re-equipped and stretched,

In front of them, barren lands with only a few grass growing spread ahead. And that continuous up to the mountainous areas.

「This change of environment, if it's not a game, it's impossible right～」

「Not knowing of what scenery comes next is really exciting right!」

The two chatted while advancing through the barren lands. It was a terrain that was easy to know if there was a monster getting closer, so it was easy to scout.

That is why, they were able to see the silhouette that was most probably players from far away.

「Maple. There's someone」

「Which equipment should I use? Is it better to have【Akujiki】?」

「I think that you shouldn't use【Akujiki】yet, if it was a battle in an instant... it's better to charge using【Cover Move】... other than that...」

Risa told Kaede with a small voice the other tactic.

「I understood」

The two advanced while strengthening their cautiousness. Since Kaede was 3rd in the last event, most of the players should know her face.

With some people, there is the possibility that they would attack to steal the medal.

And after advancing just like that, their side had also noticed of the two, stopped and started to discuss.

And without holding their weapons, the three moved towards the two.

All of the three players were male, and they were a sided party with a large sword, short sword, and one-handed sword.

When they reached the distance where their voices could be heard, the three of them started to talk.

「I can't believe it~, when I thought that it's the first time to see a person... I didn't think that it would be a ranker from last time...」

「I was really terrified... we don't have the will to fight so please let us go...!」

「We're just going to climb mountains from now~... so we don't want to waste skills」

「I see~. We're also just about to climb mountains. I'm sure that there's something in that mountain.....」

With what Kaede said, it looks like the three had the same opinion, and asked if they could come with along.

「What do you think, Sally?」

「.....isn't it alright?」

Just like this, the five of them advanced towards the mountain.

「Then, I'll go in front... so Maple should stand in from of the three, just like protecting them」

「Okay～! I'll protect you whatever monster would come!」

Kaede made a strong post with her large shield.

「You look really reliable」

「Really true」

Behind them, they started to walk while hearing the three whispering with themselves.

On the way, they encountered monsters for a few times, but without Maple needing to protect, Risa defeated it.

And, their already near their destination.

「Yosh, let's do our best a little more!」

Kaede made a big stretch.

In that instant.

「Attack now!【Amor Crush】!」

「【Defense Break】!」

「【Ignoring Blade】!」

The three who was behind Kaede attacked at once.

Defense ignoring skills, loomed to Kaede.

As if they were checking for a chance for Kaede, their combination was really smooth.

It can be said that there was no better surprise attack than that.

「【Cover Move】!」

But, their deadly blades would not reach Kaede.

The other tactic that Risa told, was for Kaede show the three people who went with them a chance purposely, and to show what the three people really wanted.

Risa had guessed that there was a high possibility that they were going to attack if they asked for accompaniment.

As long as Risa was nearby, Kaede had the fastest way to dodge.

She didn't say that she was sure that it would be safe, but Kaede agreed to Risa's suggestion.

And she was being careful of the three.

The men didn't notice that Kaede and Risa were observing them.

They were too focused on aiming for their prey, so their head couldn't turn

enough to think that they might be also aimed at.

「What!？」

The men were surprised that their surprise attack ended with a failure, and stopped at their feet.

They had probably an absolute confidence.

「【Hydra(Poison Dragon)】!」

The Poison Dragon that was released as a counterattack devoured the three without mercy, and their HPs had been scraped off.

「To think that they're really going to attack...」

「Well, there's a reason for Maple to be targeted, so... it's good that we had caution right?」

「It's because I was able to activate【Cover Move】immediately! If I didn't have that, it might've been dangerous...」

「Other than that... is there a medal? They might've dropped it」

Being told by Risa, Kaede advanced to the sea of poison. She searched around where the three collapsed, but there was no medal dropped.

「It means not to aim for getting rich quickly huh」

「That's really true」

In this event, Kaede and Risa's first PvP ended with a victory.

「Then, once again... let's go climb the mountain!」

「Oo~!」

The two, once again, started to walk towards the mountain.

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Ikkakusenkin(一攫千金) = getting rich quickly. The common reason for becoming an adventurer in different world.

Chapter 25 – Defense Specialized and Climbing Mountain

Chapter 25: Defense Specialized and Climbing Mountain

The slope of the ground appeared.

It looks like they're starting to enter the mountainous area.

「This mountain, other players should probably be moving towards it, so we should not let them go ahead of us」

「That's right, let's hurry as much as possible」

The two climbed the mountain very quickly. The mountain that the two were climbing right now was the tallest. Right now, there weren't any other players around.

Although, there is the possibility that they are climbing from another direction.

「Maple! Monsters are coming!」

「I got it!」

She exchanged her large shield to Snow White.

Assuming that there is a boss monster, she is planning to save【Akujiki】.

Very different with the sea of trees, there was a lot of monsters, so their battle count is increasing.

「Oh! I leveled up. I'm 19 with this! Status is... I'll put it all to AGI」

There are big boulders here and there, and monsters suddenly jumps out from there so it was a situation they couldn't let their cautious down.

By one of them being always cautious of the surroundings alternately, they prepared for surprise attacks.

Because bird-type monsters attacks from the sky from time to time, they could only deal with it with magic, and their MP was taken away.

The land monsters were wolf-types, they attack with quick movements.

「The ground is also really bad, so it's hard to do it～」

「Let's hurry up and climb!」

Two and a half hours of advancing while defeating monsters.

There was also snow that have started to stack on the ground. *ZakuZaku*, they walked forward will making that sound.

「Pretty much, we've advanced」

「Un, probably only another hour before the peak?」

Risa looked up to the peak.

Because of that, she was able to notice monster ahead.

About twenty meters ahead, there was a monkey that had a white fur covering its whole body.

That monkey charged down while kicking off the snow.

「It's coming!」

「Un!」

The two braces themselves.

Near the monkey, two bluish white magic circles emerged.

There was a difference point with the monsters until now and the monkey.

That is right, it could use magic.

「【Cove】!」

Kaede instinctively covered Risa.

Kaede felt from the large shield continuous blows.

It was a continuous attack with ice gravels like a machine gun.

When the monkey approached with that, it made the magic circle disappear and enveloping a white shine to its fist, it punched.

This time there was a heavier blow that runs to the large shield.

「Sally!」

「【Double Slash】!」

While Kaede was getting the attention of the monkey, Risa slips beside the monkey, and slashes at it from behind.

The monkey scream, but without collapsing, it turned to Risa with anger in its eyes, and swings its fist.

The snow on the ground was a hindrance so it was hard to move, but Risa dodged with no problem.

「【Powered Attack】!」

The two consecutive attack counter cuts the monkey's stomach deep, but it still wouldn't collapse.

Gapa, from its opened mouth, a white shining magic circle can be seen.

「【Super Acceleration】!」

Risa draws one of her trump cards with an instinctive decision.

A large number of sharp ice pierced the place where Risa was an instant ago.

「【Slash】!」

The counter after evading the breath of ice, finally sinks the monkey.

The monkey's body became light and disappeared.

「Fu～... I used【Super Acceleration】huh.....」

「After all, maybe I should participate too...」

「No, Maple should just prepare for the boss. I will be able to use【Super Acceleration】again, so... leave on the way to me!」

「n～... I got it. But, if it becomes dangerous I'll【Cover】you okay?」

「Thanks! That'd be helping」

The two once again advanced to the ice mountain. The monkey seemed to be something like a mid-boss, they did not encounter it again.

Instead, the monsters that appears was a mole that was moving through the snow with zigzag while raising a cloud of snow, and a while armadillo that rolls while taking the snow with it.

「We should be careful with the mole, but... the armadillo just continues to roll after dodging it so it's very easy right」

「I think that it would be instant death if the armadillo hits though... well, if it was Maple maybe it could be endured」

While talking about that, they climb up.

And, they finally reached the mountain peak.

The mountain peak was shaped as a clean round, and there was a shrine made of stone at the center.

There is a white shining magic circle in front of the shrine, and it was shining as if to lure the two.

It was a teleportation magic circle that they saw many times.

When the two started to get close to the magic circle.

From the opposite side of where the two climbed from, a party of four climbed up.

It was a party of a large sword, large shield, and two magicians.

They also noticed Kaede and Risa and looked towards the two.

Risa prepared for a PvP, but that didn't happen.

「Ah!... Crom-san!」

「Oh?Maple huh... I didn't think I'll meet you here.....uhh, we don't want to fight. I don't even think we'd win」

Crom said that and took away his weapons and the rest also followed, and raised both of their hands.

「I also don't want to fight.it's okay right, Risa?」

「Well, I guess so. We also don't want to be exhausted, so... it should be good to be cautious at least, but... probably it's okay... I think?」

Because it could be hardly said that it would be absolutely fine, Risa continued to talk without letting her guard down.

「And then... what should we do with this shrine? Both of us can't receive the rewards right?」

What Risa said was reasonable, since it would be either Crom or Kaede who enters first, if they were able to successfully capture it, the rewards might disappear.

Kaede thought of it for a while, then started talking.

「n～..... Sally. Can we give it to Crom-san and the rest?」

To Kaede who told that apologetically, Risa was surprised, then answered while making a pleasant smile.

「.....if Maple is good with that, I'm okay with everything you know? But, you shouldn't regret it! Promise me that okay」

「Un.....I got it!then, please go on first!」

Kaede told towards Crom and the rest.

「I-Is it okay? In this case, it's normal for it to be first one's first though...」

「It's okay! You should hurry up and go before I change my mind you know?」

After Kaede said that, Crom said thanks and stood on the magic circle and disappeared.

The two were left behind on the mountain peak.

「You're really fine with that?」

「Un... if it became a battle here and we used our skills, it would be bad after all if it became a battle after teleporting, so... most of all, I didn't want to fight with a friend too」

「Un! If you're not regretting it then its fine.....right now, I wonder if they're in a battle?」

Risa said while looking at the magic circle that had lost its shine.

「Maybe」

「What should we do? You want to go down? That or, if they're fighting they might lose, so... since we even saved our skills, you want to wait?」

When Risa suggested that.

The magic circle regains its shine again.

It was the sign that it was possible to enter again.

「「Eh?!」」

The two were surprised.

It hasn't been a minute since Crom and the rest entered.

It was an unexpected speed.

「W-What does this mean?!」

To Kaede who was confused, Risa started to talk what she had thought.

「For start, there are two things that I had thought of. One, the possibility that it ended very quickly since it was only needed to collect the medals or equipments after teleporting. The other one is...

Risa stopped her words there once, and whispered with a very unpleasant air what she didn't want to happen in reality.

「The possibility that they were defeated by a very strong monster without being able to do anything」

「That is...」

「If I were to choose, it is the latter.....I think. The reason why the magic circle is still lighting is because it can be challenged again, I think. Then... what inside, should not be an equipment.....probably」

Fortunately, there was no sign of any other players climbing. The two checked each other's status and decided to make a strategy before challenging.

「It's only about, my armor became【VIT +40】because of【Destruction Growth】, and my HP increased. Skills are perfectly reserved」

「I also didn't change a lot. 【Super Acceleration】had recovered too, and there is still【Mirage】remaining」

Maple

Lv24

HP 40/40〈+160〉

MP 12/12 〈+10〉

【STR 0】

【VIT 170〈+81〉】

【AGI 0】

【DEX 0】

【INT 0】

Equipments

Head【―――】

Body【Armor of Black Roses】

Right hand【Shingetsu : Hydra(Poison Dragon)】

Left Hand【Mirror of the Dark Night : Bizarre Eater(Akujiki)】

Legs【Armor of Black Roses】

Shoes【Armor of Black Roses】

Accessories【Ring of the Forest Queen Bee】

【Toughness Ring】

【Ring of Life】

Skill

【Absolute Defense】【Giant Killing (OomonoKurai)】【Hydra Eater (DokuruuKurai)】【Bomb Eater (BakudanKurai)】【Meditation】【Provoke】【Abominable (Gokuaku Hidō)】【Knowledge of Large Shield IV】【Body Manipulation】【Attack Diversion】【Shield Attack】

【HP Strengthening (Small)】【MP Strengthening (Small)】

【Cover Move I】【Cover】

Sally

Lv19

HP 32/32

MP 25/25〈 +35〉

【STR 25〈 +20〉】

【VIT 0】

【AGI 80〈 +68〉】

【DEX 25〈 +20〉】

【INT 25〈 +20〉】

Equipments

Head【Muffler of the Surface Water (Minamo no Mafura) : Mirage(Shinkirō)】

Body【Coat of the Ocean (Taikai no Kōto) : Ocean(Taikai)】

Right Hand【Dagger of the Deep Sea (Shinkai no Dagā)】

Left Hand【Dagger of the Bottom of the Water (Minasoko no Dagā)】

Legs【Leggings of the Ocean】

Shoes【Black Boots】

Accessories【―――】

【―――】

【―――】

Skill

【Status Debuff Attack III】【Slash】【Double Slash】【Gale Slash (HayateGiri)】
【Muscle Strengthening (Small)】

【Consecutive Attack Strengthening (Small)】【Double Attack】【Powered Attack】【Switch Attack】【Body Arts I】

【Knowledge of Short Swords II】【Jack of All Trades】【Divine Break】【Super Acceleration】

【Fire Magic I】【Water Magic II】【Wind Magic II】

【Earth Magic I】【Dark Magic I】【Light Magic II】

【Fire Ball】【Water Ball】

【Water Wall】

【Wind Cutter】【Wind Wall】

【Thunder Cutter】

【Dark Ball】

【Refresh】【Heal】

【MP Strengthening (Small)】【MP Cut (Small)】

【MP Recovery Speed Strengthening (Small)】【Knowledge of Magic II】

【Fishing】【Swimming X】【Diving X】【Cooking I】

【Mining Speed Strengthening (Small)】【Sensory Blocking II】

【Sensory Awareness II】【Stealth Move I】【Leap I】

【Poison Resistance (Small)】

「For start, as soon as we entered, I will ready my large shield so hide behind me」

「Understood. And then, after that...」

The two discussed after that for about twenty minutes, then stood up and walked towards the magic circle.

「Yosh! Let's go」

「Un!」

And, the two's appearance became light and disappeared.

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Chapter 26 – Defense Specialized and Teleport Destination

Chapter 26: Defense Specialized and Teleport Destination

The light that covered the two's sight disappeared.

And at the same time, Kaede readied her large shield to be alert for the pre-emptive attack, but the powerful attack that they were fearing of did not come.

All the more so, there was no monster anywhere.

The two continued to be on alert while confirming the surroundings.

In there, was a very wide circular space.

The walls were covered by blue shining crystals, and the ceiling was open.

From the sky, snow was falling.

And, one part of the crystal on the wall ahead was protruding, on it was a huge bird's nest.

But, it seems that the nest's owner was not there at the moment.

「Okay～..... I got it. A bird-type boss would absolutely come. Maybe I can't use【Ocean】」

「What should we do? You want to approach the bird's nest?」

「.....but carefully. Probably, it would come when we approached」

The two, while on alert, advances towards the bird's nest.

There were only five meters left before the bird's nest.

At that instant, together with a roaring sound, something was shot at high speed towards the hall from high up in the sky.

But, the two who was on alert could barely jump back and was able to dodge.

Those were sharp-edged ice.

And following that, a monster bird that has feathers white as snow swoops.

Glaring eyes, sharp beaks, and talons, bearing the dignity of strong beings, the monster bird descended to the hall.

The path of reconciliation does not exist from the start.

It was the start of the battle.

The monster bird emerges a magic circle on its sides.

From there, ice shards that were shot, covering almost all of their sight.

「【Cover】!」

Kaede lowers her large shield and stood in front of Risa.

If she received these shards, it was because that the number of uses of【Akujiki】would disappear in an instant.

「Yosh! It isn't piercing!」

Kaede received those shards with her body, and nullified it.

It seems that the monster bird was more intelligent than normal monsters, after it understood that its attack wouldn't go through, it combined the magic circles into one, and shot ice that was the same with what it shot from the sky.

In exchange for power, a chance appeared.

Risa jumped into that chance.

「Maple!」

「【Cover Move】!」

Forcefully catching up to Risa, there was only a distance of three meters between the monster bird.

When it was only one step before the monster bird, the monster bird raised harsh cries.

The white magic circle, spreads out the whole floors of the hall.

「This is bad.....!」

With explosive sounds, piercing through the hall's floor, large thorns of ice grew. It reached one meter in height covering all of the floor.

But, in the exception of Kaede's surroundings.

Within the snow clouds were fluttering down, Kaede adjusted her large shield towards the floor.

「.....I'm saved! Nice, Maple!」

「There's only 6 times left of【Akujiki】okay!」

「Okay~!」

Risa kicked the thorns of ice and approaches the monster bird as if to jump.

Because the footings were bad, she was not able to stop somewhere.

The monster bird tries to capture Risa with its talons, its speeds was even equal to that of Risa's.

「【Super Acceleration】!」

The sudden acceleration made the monster bird react late for an instant. And, in this rapid changing battle situation, that was a fatal mistake.

「【Cover Move】!」

The large shield that Kaede swung who closed the distance in an instant, devoured its talons together with its feet that were used to attack Risa.

The monster bird cries in a loud voice because of its anger and pain.

But, that movement only opens a chance.

「【Hydra(Poison Dragon)】」

The three-headed poison dragon devours the monster bird.

Kaede landed on the top of the melted ice that was melted by the poison that fell, and Risa looked at it from a place a little far away.

An unbelievable cold air was emitted from the monster bird, and the poison that covered the monster bird was frozen.

And, *Parin*, together with that high-pitch sound, it shatters and fell down with a glittering shine.

「It's HP Bar was only decreased by 10%?!」

「No way...!」

For the two who had planned to finish it quickly with Kaede's fast attack, its HP

amount was higher than expected.

Without minding the two who were surprised, the thorns of ice that grew around the monster bird broke and gathered.

And after a few instances, it was shot as a bullet.

「【Cover Move】! 【Cover】!」

Kaede who moved in front of Risa lowered her large shield and received the deadly bullets.

Red effects were emitted from her body.

「Kuu!... it's piercing! 【Meditation】!」

Because of the【Cover Move】's demerit, the damage would be doubled if it goes through. With each attack, Kaede's HP Bar was definitely decreasing.

「【Heal】!」

The method that they took when there is a piercing attack that could not be helped with was, Kaede would【Meditate】and Risa would repeatedly use【Heal】from behind.

With this, she can endure until there's a chance.

Twenty seconds of endurance.

The blizzard of ice had stopped, and the rugged grounds only remains.

「Let's go!」

「Un!」

The two ran in opposite directions.

It was Risa which the monster bird targeted. The monster bird charged with fierce speeds.

「Concentrate!」

Saying cheers to herself, she fixed her eyes on the monster bird.

Together with it charging, shards of ice flew.

But, because it was while it was charging, so there were many open holes within those shards.

If it was Risa, it was easy for her to dodge them.

「【Leap】!」

Risa saw through the monster bird's charge, and jumps over its body at the last minute.

「【Slash】!」

In that chance, using【Status Debuff Attack】, she did not forget to inject paralysis poison while slashing through it.

It is because if this paralysis poison piles up stacks, it might create a fatal chance.

The decrease of its HP bar was very little it couldn't be seen in it, but its not like it was not decreasing.

The monster bird turns around, spread its wings and fluttered.

With storm winds, the ice shards on the ground were caught up and closed in irregularly.

Risa jumped sideways with leap to escape the range of the storm winds.

「【Hydra(Poison Dragon)】」

Waiting for Risa to get through, the poison dragon closed in to the monster bird.

The monster bird that was targeted after it fluttered, was not able to face Kaede's attack with a perfect condition.

One of the three heads of the poison dragon hit its body.

「【Wind Cutter】【Fire Ball】!」

If there was a chance, Risa also changes to the offense. They need to accumulate as much damage as possible.

The poison that entangled it once again became ice and was shook off.

Probably feeling that the poison dragon was a threat, the monster bird charged to Kaede.

Because shards of ice do not have an effect to Kaede, there should be no problem with this movement.

It's charged closed into Kaede who didn't even seem to dodge.

Its talons, was swung intended to tear apart Kaede's body.

The large shield, was swung devouring the body of the monster bird.

The monster bird bent backwards while scattering flashy damage effects.

Kaede swings again her large shield in pursuit of a chance.

From Kaede's body also, there was a small red damage effects scattering.

The monster birds' attack was able to deal even a damage to Kaede who had more than 1000 VIT without using piercing skills.

But, it was clear to anyone which one paid a greater sacrifice.

The HP Bar on the top of the monster bird's head was decreased to only 70%.

「【Leap】!」

There was no way that Risa would let that chance escape, and jumped to the back of the monster bird that was stunned by Kaede's attack.

「【Ocean!】」

The monster bird's back as its center, water had spread.

That steeped the monster bird in an instant.

When the monster bird starts to go on a rampage with its angry voice, Risa had already jumped off.

The monster bird's speed fell.

「【Hydra(Poison Dragon)!」

There was no way for the monster bird that had its speed falling to dodge that attack.

Its HP decreased furthermore.

「【Double Slash】!【Fire Ball】!」

Kaede grinds the monster bird in-fight.

Risa checks for chances while injecting paralysis poison by hit-and-away.

And there, Kaede's large shield once again devoured the monster bird.

The monster bird's talons also had ground Kaede's HP bar to half, but it wasn't enough to be fatal.

The monster bird's HP bar was cut in half.

At that time.

The monster bird took distance from the two, and pierced its talons to the ground very deeply.

Its beaks were greatly opened, and a magic circle that was about double Kaede and Risa's size spread.

The two instinctively sensed the danger after that.

「【Cover Move】!【Cover】!」

The next instant that Kaede shouted.

The two's sight were covered completely by a silvery-white laser.

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Chapter 27 – Defense Specialized and Conclusion

Chapter 27: Defense Specialized and Conclusion

After a few seconds, the silvery-white fades and dissipates.

The fact that the ground was battered and gouged by the laser, said a lot about the laser's strength.

On that battered ground, Kaede had stood while holding her large shield.

Risa also was able to escape the laser with sure death because of that solid protection.

Risa recovers Kaede's HP with【Heal】.

While hiding behind Kaede, she recovers her MP by drinking MP potion.

「【Akujiki】, there's only one left」

「Un, I know」

To stop that laser, she could only cut her【Akujiki】.

Although they were able to survive, it was in exchange for her precious damage source.

The battle situation is getting worse.

「If the laser would come again,【Cover Move】with full force. Don't get too far away」

After Risa said very quickly, and ran towards the monster bird.

Kaede followed Risa and approached the monster bird.

While Risa was taking the monster bird's attention, she is planning to hit it with【Hydra(Poison Dragon)】.

The monster bird violently pulled out its talon from the ground, and shot

shards of ice while flying up.

Its target was Risa.

Risa knew about it.

That if the shards of ice that Kaede was able to receive easily hits her, it was the end for her.

Just like the time she fought with the giant fish, her concentration heightens to its limits.

The feeling of the shards of ices gradually getting slower, she was getting able to see slight gaps.

Risa twisted her body and dodged.

At times, bending, at times, leaping, and at times, blocking down those shards, she closed in to the bosom of the monster bird.

「【Double Slash】!」

While Risa was dodging its talons and shards, she doesn't weaken her offense that is done with skills mixed.

The monster bird's talons closed in to take Risa's life, but they were dodged by Risa by paper's width.

The more the monster bird attacks, the more its feet get slashed.

「【Slash】!」

Small wounds that are continuously dealt.

The paralysis poison that gets stacked and piled up ties up the monster bird's body.

「【Hydra(Poison Dragon)!」

That gap that Risa made while risking her life on it, there was no way for Kaede to let it get away.

The paralyzed monster bird that moves slowly cannot dodge the Poison Dragon.

For Kaede to be able to hit her huge skill, Risa supports with her full force.

And, Kaede answered to that properly.

The monster bird's HP became 40% and a few.

「【Venom Cutter】!」

Kaede continued to attack. That that was shot from the magic circle in her sword's tip, was far inferior to【Hydra(Poison Dragon)】but it certainly deals damage.

Risa also continues to shoot magic to deal more damage.

When the monster bird's HP cuts 40%, the paralysis got cleared.

It targeted Kaede, and shots barrage of shards and strong winds.

Because these attacks doesn't go through Kaede, she lowers her large shield to save her precious【Akujiki】.

While Kaede was receiving the shards attack, Risa was able to attack safely, so it can be said as a chance.

With Risa's rush, the HP decreased to 35%.

But, for Risa to release firepower, the MP consumed was severe.

If she wouldn't manage it properly, she wouldn't be able to attack with full power at the best time.

The instance its HP was 35%.

The monster bird stopped its storm attack, and flew to the sky.

Kaede and Risa felt a bad feeling at the same time, and gathered in the middle.

The monster bird that flew up the sky where snow was falling, its white shining wings was dyed to jet black that would even swallow darkness.

At the same time, the monster bird's HP started to decrease gradually, and when it became 10%, it stopped decreasing.

The monster bird raised a cry that made the atmosphere tremble.

「It's coming!」

「I got it!」

To be ready for anything that would come, Kaede had the resolution of using the last【Akujiki】and made a stance with her large shield.

The jet black monster bird folded its wings and charged.

Even leaving behind its sound, it collided with Kaede's large shield.

The last【Akujiki】took half of its HP bar, but there, the strongest large shield that protects Kaede lost its effect.

The monster bird's talon attacked Kaede at high speed.

The large shield that she held broke.

Her armor was torn into pieces.

And her HP Bar was grinded to below 10%

「u, a.....!」

To the too much of a damage, Kaede groaned. A black light overflows from the monster bird's beaks.

「Maple!」

Risa jumped.

Kaede's best salvation, was that Risa did not stop thinking.

「【Cover Move】!!」

Using all her will power, Kaede's body moved towards where Risa was, and dodged the laser that followed at the nick of time.

The monster bird charged to pursue.

Unreasonable and violent speed that even Risa's forecast couldn't catch up.

The instant before that attack pierced through Risa.

「【Cover】!」

Kaede stood between the monster bird and Risa.

Although her HP Bar was only 10%, Kaede chose to make the most probably her last movement for this fight to protect Risa.

It's just that, she wanted to do that.

The monster bird's talon crushed her large shield and armor that got more sturdy with【Destruction Growth】, and tore Maple's body.

A tremendous amount of damage effects scattered.

But still, Kaede didn't collapse.

Only one millimeter of her HP bar remained, and a white effect covered her body.

「【Leap】!」

That monster bird's talon that was swung, Risa understood that that was the last chance in an instant, how Kaede was able to endure it or anything, she stopped thinking about Kaede and jumped towards the monster bird.

Kaede followed that with high speed.

In the short sword that she was holding, a violet colored magic circle shines.

After the monster bird swung its talon, it lost its balance. It, wouldn't be able to dodge.

Risa became sure of victory.

But, in the instance when the monster bird's eyes shined suspiciously and a jet black magic circle was created between the two, she understood that that was false.

An expression that could be taken as surprise and impatience emerges to the two's faces, but they could not move any longer in the air.

Jet black magic bullets that were shot before the Poison Dragon.

The monster bird's last trump card flew while swallowing the two.

The two got swallowed, and their appearance disappeared fleetingly.

That's right, just like.

It was an illusion in a dream.

「How was my trump card?」

One instant after the magic bullets goes through, the space blurred and Risa appeared.

The last of the last.

For this one instant, 【Mirage】that she did not show.

And the monster bird that saw that for the first time was not able to see through the illusion.

「【Cover Move】!」

The real Kaede came close to Risa.

It was a zero range attack where the time for the monster bird to dodge does not exist.

「【Hydra(Poison Dragon)!」

Devoured by the Poison Dragon.

It raised a cry that echoed for long.

The monster bird already had its body sunken in the ground.

The white light that overflows from the monster bird was shining as if you bless the two.

「We did it.....we won...」

「I'm tired... I want to sleep」

While collapsing in the battered hall, the two whispered.

「That's right. What was that Maple's skill? The one that endured the last

attack」

「Wait a minute okay... it's the skill called【Unyielding Guardian】, it's a large shield exclusive skill that can be taken when covering an ally when HP is below 10%. Only once every day, it would endure any attack with 1 HP, it says」

「Ahh, I see. That kind of skill huh.....I only raised my level by the way... I mean, Maple's HP is only 1 right now?! 【Heal】!」

A warm light enveloped Kaede, and recovers her HP.

With this, she wouldn't die from something sudden.

The two stood up and started exploring.

「The monster bird is in the sea of poison, so exploration, I'm counting on you」

「What would Sally do?」

「I'll go look at the bird's nest」

The two separated and starts their own exploration.

A treasure box did not appear, so there should be a reward that has the same worth somewhere.

Kaede advanced in the sea of poison while splashing, and went towards where the monster bird was.

「Ah!! Materials are dropped!」

What was dropped, were four black talons that even pierced through Kaede, and three pieces of white feathers.

It could be guessed that all of them were high-graded materials.

「Maple～! Come here for a bit～!」

Risa shouted from inside the huge bird's nest.

Kaede ran with a trot, and asked Risa from below.

「Should I go up?」

「Un! Come with【Cover Move】」

「Okay～! 【Cover Move】!」

Kicking the wall and jumping, when Kaede reached where Risa was, what she saw were two eggs, and five medals.

「This... the monster bird's?」

「No, the size and colors are different... maybe it picked it up from somewhere..... I can't tell what egg is it from」

「Will we also take this back?」

「That's right. There's an indication of whether it is going to be placed in the inventory or not, so... which one do you like better?」

「Can I choose first?」

「It's okay～! Please do what you like」

One was an egg with a deep green shell. The other one was an egg with a faint violet color.

「Then.....I like green so this one!」

「Then, this one's mine」

The two checked the egg's information.

【Monster Egg】

Will hatch if incubated.

「There's only few information」

「I agree. I'd hate it if a monster would only hatch, but... maybe we'll be able to tame it～...」

In this game, there is no summoners or tamers to the possibility is low, but thinking of the monster bird's subjugation difficulty, it might be a special reward.

The two, for the meantime, decided to bring the egg with them.

The materials are two talons each for the two, and in return of being able to choose the egg first, Risa took two feathers.

The two went out of the nest, and walked towards the magic circle.

「There's three magic circles?」

As Kaede has said, there were three magic circles that appeared.

It should be proper to think that they are connected to completely different places.

「Sally, which one should it be?」

「There's also no【Akujiki】, so a place where few battles would be good...」

Risa walked around while thinking for a while, and stopped in front of one of the magic circles.

「This one!」

「Okay～! Then, let's go!」

The two entered the magic circle, became light and disappeared.

What remained was the battered ground, the proof that a fierce battle happened here.

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Chapter 28 – Defense Specialized and Midnight Exploration

Chapter 28: Defense Specialized and Midnight Exploration

The two's appearance emerged from the magic circle.

Even though she had no【Akujiki】, Maple was making a stance with her large shield for surprise attacks.

「It looks okay.....huh?」

The two confirmed the surroundings.

Surrounding them were ruins that had spread. There was plenty of marks of buildings being destroyed.

Guessing from the mountainous area's position, it looks like their location is on the opposite location of their starting point.

「For the mean time, we got to a good direction huh?」

「But, somebody might've already explored it」

「It's only the second day... the hidden ones shouldn't be found yet... here, there's probably nothing. It's right in front of the magic circle after all」

Nevertheless, there's no way that the management would place a medal right in front of the destination point.

While searching for a safe place, the two walked around the ruins, they decided to at least search too.

「... there's three players. What do think?」

「If possible, I don't want to fight.....there's no【Akujiki】too... it's bad if we lost」

「I got it. The, let's go here」

The two passed through the ruins, and entered inside the forest quietly.

The monsters that were coming out were spiders and owls.

If you look at them after the monster bird, whatever monster it is, it looks like a small fry.

Their movements are slow, they also have no attack powers, and their HP is low too.

「Easy win, easy win」

They moved forward inside the forest. What they are searching for is a place that they can spend the night. They took plenty of time climbing, so the sun is already setting.

The two continued to explore the forest while defeating monsters.

「Muu.....there's nothing～...」

As Maple had said, surrounding them was only a forest that was spreading, and there seems to be no special buildings or caves.

「For the meantime, let's climb on top of a higher tree. I think it's better than being on the ground」

Sally chose a tree that only had branches in high places and jumped using【Leap】.

「【Cover Move】!」

Maple followed her and reached the top of the tree.

There would probably no players that would prefer climbing one without branches on the lower places appearing.

The two rested their backs on the trunk of the tree and took a breath.

After doing that, the fatigue from the battle against the monster birds suddenly came.

「Sally... after 12, 【Akujiki】would recover though. What do you think?」

It means, what Maple wants to say is, after taking a break for a while until 12, if she would like to explore in the middle of the night or not.

There was also the thing with the jungle in the other day, so there should be an event that is set to appear by during time periods.

The two's goal is 20 medals.

For that, they need to test many things, and there is a need for them to explore the places that they can explore.

On top of that, they need to find it before other players.

Rushing to explore during the last stage of the event is not good.

「If it's good with Maple」

「Un, then... let's continue exploring after 12 had passed!」

The two decided to use the status point that they gained from leveling up.

「Let me see～... AGI and STR huh?」

「One vote for VIT!」

Maple

Lv26

HP 40/40〈+160〉

MP 12/12 〈+10〉

【STR 0】

【VIT 175〈+141〉】

【AGI 0】

【DEX 0】

【INT 0】

Equipments

Head【―――】

Body【Armor of Black Roses】

Right hand【Shingetsu : Hydra(Poison Dragon)】

Left Hand【Mirror of the Dark Night : Bizarre Eater(Akujiki)】

Legs【Armor of Black Roses】

Shoes【Armor of Black Roses】

Accessories【Ring of the Forest Queen Bee】

【Toughness Ring】

【Ring of Life】

Skill

- 【Absolute Defense】
- 【Giant Killing (OomonoKurai)】
- 【Hydra Eater (DokuryuuKurai)】
- 【Bomb Eater (BakudanKurai)】
- 【Meditation】
- 【Provoke】
- 【Abominable (Gokuaku Hidō)】
- 【Knowledge of Large Shield IV】
- 【Body Manipulation】
- 【Attack Diversion】
- 【Shield Attack】
- 【HP Strengthening (Small)】
- 【MP Strengthening (Small)】
- 【Cover Move I】
- 【Cover】
- 【Unyielding Guardian】

Sally

Lv21

HP 32/32

MP 25/25〈 + 35〉

【STR 30〈 + 20〉】

【VIT 0】

【AGI 85〈 + 68〉】

【DEX 25〈 + 20〉】

【INT 25〈 + 20〉】

Equipments

Head【Muffler of the Surface Water (Minamo no Mafura) : Mirage(Shinkirō)】

Body【Coat of the Ocean (Taikai no Kōto) : Ocean(Taikai)】

Right Hand【Dagger of the Deep Sea (Shinkai no Dagā)】

Left Hand【Dagger of the Bottom of the Water (Minasoko no Dagā)】

Legs【Leggings of the Ocean】

Shoes【Black Boots】

Accessories【———】

【———】

【———】

Skill

【Status Debuff Attack III】【Slash】【Double Slash】【Gale Slash (HayateGiri)】
【Muscle Strengthening (Small)】

【Consecutive Attack Strengthening (Small)】【Double Attack】【Powered
Attack】【Switch Attack】【Body Arts I】

【Knowledge of Short Swords II】【Jack of All Trades】【Divine Break】【Super
Acceleration】

【Fire Magic I】【Water Magic II】【Wind Magic II】

【Earth Magic I】【Dark Magic I】【Light Magic II】

【Fire Ball】【Water Ball】

【Water Wall】

【Wind Cutter】【Wind Wall】

【Sand Cutter】

【Dark Ball】

【Refresh】【Heal】

【MP Strengthening (Small)】【MP Cut (Small)】

【MP Recovery Speed Strengthening (Small)】【Knowledge of Magic II】

【Fishing】【Swimming X】【Diving X】【Cooking I】

【Mining Speed Strengthening (Small)】【Sensory Blocking II】

【Sensory Awareness II】【Stealth Move I】【Leap I】

【Poison Resistance (Small)】

In Maple's status【VIT+5】and【Destruction Growth】, with both of those it's【VIT +60】.

【Unyielding Guardian】is added in her skills.

In Sally's status its 【AGI +5】and【STR +5】

Maple ate the food that she received from Sally.

They needed to rest their body before 12.

In the middle of the night where even the sounds of the monsters moving got quiet, the to climbed down from the tree.

Since【Akujiki】had also recovered, their battle preparations are perfect.

And with that, Maple changed her shield to Snow White. It's to avoid wasting them.

「The forest, or the ruins. Which one?」

「U～n... the forest! There were also players in the ruins earlier so it probably got explored」

「Un. The forest then」

The two advanced deeper and deeper into the forest.

From time to time, owls were charging without sounds, but Sally easily dodged with her own dodging skills, and Maple was ignoring them since there would be no damage after all.

And, after an hour and a half walking around the forest.

「Ne～, Sally? There... isn't it shining?」

Being told by Maple, Sally looked at it carefully.

As Maple had said, far ahead of them, she saw a faint light.

「It might be a player, so... cautiously」

「I got it」

The two hold their breaths and approached.

In Sally's case, she even made sure and used【Sensory Blocking】.

「This is.....」

「.....bamboo?」

What was there, was a bamboo forest.

And one part of one of them was shining faintly.

「W-What do you think...? Should we split it into two」

Maple asked Sally.

「If there was a person inside, it would be very troublesome though.....」

Bamboo that shines in the middle.

Whoever it is, they should imagine Kaguya-Hime. In fact, Sally was also like that.

「But... there might be a medal... there is also medals that can be gained from exploring right?」

After the two talked for a while, in the end, they decided to split it into two.

Sally swung her dagger.

Supa, the bamboo got cut and increased its shine.

Nothing that they feared of had happened.

What's inside, was one medal that was shining with a silver color

「Yay! Nothing troublesome happened, and we also get a medal!」

「Yosh! With this, only 12 pieces left!」

The two got happy, but it was wrong that there wasn't a troublesome thing.

GasaGasa, after the bushes around sounded, rabbits that had long horns jumped out one next to the other.

「Is it the moon's Usagi-san?」

「Maybe.....that horn, it might be piercing damage. Be careful」

「Understood!」

The two prepared for battle.

Maple, compared to the time when she just started the game, she really became like a normal player.

Even that is said, it is only about the things other than her status.

Comparing something like a rabbit to the monster bird, it's only very cute.

The two started the battle against the rabbits that had jumped towards them.

After a while when the battle had finished, the place where the bamboo forest was changed to a sea of poison, and the bamboos that grew straight upwards were cut in the middle, it was that kind of a terrible situation.

Each one of the rabbits wasn't that much, but their numbers were tremendous.

「T-There's too many...」

「A hundred?... two hundred? I'm tired...」

Defeating all the rabbits that were jumping within the bamboo forest as if it was their own garden took them plenty of difficulties.

「Let's rest on the top of some tree.....」

「Un... I agree」

In exchange for one medal, they got really exhausted.

The third day of the event, it had just started

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